

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIV.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 22nd July, at H.B.M. Consulate, Foochow, the wife of P. E. O'BRIEN BUTLER, H.B.M. Consul, of a daughter.

On the 23rd July, at "The Grove," Robinson Road, Kowloon, the wife of T. G. HUGHES, P.W.D., of a daughter.

On the 25th July, at No. 34, Caine Road, Hongkong, the wife of E. V. M. R. DE SOUZA, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 18th June, at the Maitland Hotel, Edinburgh, by the Rev. Dr. Forrest, West Coates Parish Church, GORDON GRAEME, son of W. G. St. CLAIR, Singapore, to AGNES MACDOUGALL, eldest daughter of William MARTIN, Haymarket, Edinburgh.

On the 15th July, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, WALTER CREIL MICHELL, of the Straits Settlements Civil Service, only surviving son of the late William Marwick MICHELL, to EVELYN VIOLET LEVINGE, of Carnagh, only child of the late William LEVINGE, of Carnagh, Athlone.

DEATHS.

On the 12th July, at the General Hospital, Singapore, of fever, GEORGE F. EVANS, aged 32 years.

On the 14th July, at 3, Lloyd Road, Singapore, KATHERINE HOOPER TARN, widow of the late Capt. E. R. TARN, aged 63 years.

On the 23rd July, at 11.55 p.m., at Kennedy-town Hospital, MARY WILSON BROWNELL, aged 38 years, widow of the late John BROWNELL, Superintending Engineer, Messrs. Bradley & Co., and daughter of John WILSON, Bones, Scotland.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 22nd June arrived, per T. K. K. steamer Hongkong Maru, on the 21st July (29 days); the German mail of the 24th June arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *König Albert*, on the 22nd July (28 days); and the American mail of the 29th June arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 28th July (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Count von Waldersee arrived at Suez, on his way back to Germany, on the 22nd inst.

The total cost of the British expedition to China amounts to £4,350,000 sterling, exclusive of the Naval Expenditure.

Numerous honours and promotions in connection with the China operations have been gazetted, but details from London are not yet to hand.

The Yangtze has reached its record height and burst its bank near Nanking, causing immense desolation. The *Kiangwan*, *Talee*, and *Meile* were all badly ashore near Tunglin last week.

An Imperial order from Hsian was sent to Shanghai for Prince Chun, permitting him to visit Belgium, Great Britain, the United States, and Japan, after completing his mission to Berlin.

Russia intends to add to her Pacific squadron this year two ironclads, three first-class cruisers, two mining cruisers, and four boats for laying mines. The ironclads and cruisers leave Europe in August.

According to Renter, Lord Cranborne in the House of Commons last week stated that the temporary presence of foreign troops at Shanghai does not constitute any alienation of Chinese territory, or infringement of Chinese assurances to Great Britain in regard to the Yangtze.

The Chinese cruiser *Haiyang*, formerly the flagship of Admiral Yih, which was taken by the Allies last summer off Taku, has been restored to the Chinese. Admiral Yih is at present in Peking, and is doing his utmost to get back the four torpedo boats which were taken by the British—one being kept (the *Taku*, now in reserve here), and one each turned over to the Germans, Russians, and French.

The *Universal Gazette* gives the following route proposed to be taken by the Chinese Court when it leaves Hsian for Peking:—From Hsian by land to Liuyank'ou, a district under the jurisdiction of K'ai-feng, Honan; then by boat across the Yellow River to the left bank; from thence by land to Taok'ou, which belongs to the district magistracy of Tsinhsien; then take boat from thence by the Wei river to Tschou, Shantung, on the Grand Canal. From Tschou by the Grand Canal to Tientsin, Chihli, and from thence by rail to Peking.

The 14th U. S. Infantry, who did such excellent work in China, left Manila for the United States on the 20th instant.

The French flagship *Amiral Charner* has come south to enable Admiral Bayle to inspect the French ships at Foochow, Swatow, Canton, etc.

The command of the China Expeditionary Force was handed over, on the 11th inst., by Lieut.-General Gaselee, K.C.B., to Major-General Creagh. General Gaselee will sail for Japan on a pleasure trip shortly, and will land at Kobe.

Yuana Taotai of Shanghai, it is stated, has received a special telegram from Viceroy Lin Kung-yi, saying that the Empress Dowager had commanded the local mandarins not to be too extravagant in preparing for the reception of the Prince, owing to the Court being still in exile.

H.M.S. *Glory*, with Sir Cyprian Bridge on board, is on its way here from the North, and leaves Shanghai to-day. Sir Cyprian Bridge pays his first visit to the southern part of the Station since succeeding Sir Edward Seymour, G.C.B., as Admiral of the Fleet on the China Station.

L'Echo de Chine says that bad news has been received from mid-China, the missionaries having grave reason for alarm in Shansi, Hupeh, Honan, Kiangsi, and certain points in Mongolia. But, as has been pointed out, as far as regards Shansi, any rate, the reception of the missionary party at Taiyuanfu goes to show that the alarm is groundless.

It is announced at Washington that a plan for the payment of the Chinese indemnity has been definitely adopted. Amortisation bonds are to be issued under repayment beginning in 1902, the principal and interest to be entirely liquidated by 1940. It is expected that China will be able to raise 23 millions of taels annually in addition to present revenue.

Prince Chun arrived in Hongkong Harbour on the German mail steamer *Bayern* about 6 a.m. on Thursday. H.E. the Governor paid his visit at 9 o'clock, and the Prince called at Government House just before 11 a.m., leaving for the *Bayern* again at 3.30 p.m. The Governor paid the final call at 5, and at 6.20 p.m. the *Bayern* started on her voyage to Germany.

Things are not apparently as peaceful in the Philippines as one is led to believe, in spite of Aguinaldo's proclamation exhorting his countrymen to accept American rule and bury the hatchet. Three provinces, viz., Batangas, the Island of Cebu, and Bohol, which had been placed under civil administration quite recently, have had again to be placed under military rule.

The Russian authorities are now proceeding to take up their Settlement in Tientsin, and have invited all foreign holders of title-deeds to submit their documents for inspection and registration, says the *N.-C. Daily News* correspondent. At the present moment, except a few Russian subjects who have recently invested in land in the locality, there are very few foreign holders—the railway, mining, and steamer companies and one British partnership, not above half-a-dozen in all, and these all riparian owners. Other prospective concession-holders have so far done little or nothing, with the exception of the Italians.

CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1900.

(Daily Press, 21st July.)

Mr. F. E. TAYLOR's report on the foreign trade of China in 1900, just published at Shanghai by order of the Inspectorate General of Imperial Maritime Customs, deals with the results of a most exceptional year in the history of China. Yet after a perusal of the report one is surprised at the small general effect of the upheaval last year. This was due to a variety of circumstances. "The great expansion of China's foreign trade, shown by the statistics for 1899, was continued during the first half of '1900," Mr. TAYLOR says, "but the disturbances in the North, which became serious in June, not only stopped for a time all trade at Newchwang and Tientsin, but naturally had a depressing effect through the ports." The idea of the possible success of the Boxer movement, he goes on to say, was accepted only by a limited party in Peking and by certain northern provincial officials; elsewhere it was fortunately received with scepticism. A rebellion in the South was promptly suppressed, though not before it had disturbed trade. The tranquillity of the Yangtze Valley was remarkable. "That trade was not more ruinously impeded, always excepting the area of hostilities, during a year which was so exceptionally trying to merchants, and so full of unrest for the populace," the report continues, "shows its vitality and how quickly it will revive when peace is restored." This is a reassuring statement, and could we but feel any certainty as to the progress of pacification up North we might well derive considerable encouragement from it.

The close of the decade, Mr. TAYLOR observes, offers a convenient opportunity for a general view of the progress of trade, and he accordingly gives in tabular form the annual quantities of some of the principal articles imported during the years 1891-1900. The record he finds not altogether satisfactory. Neither in cotton piece goods, woollen goods or metals has growth been shown. On the other hand, flour, kerosene, matches and soap are imported in much larger quantities every year, the first and last named reaching their record figures last year. In heavy cotton goods Mr. TAYLOR notes the expansion of American manufactures at the expense of British, which, he says, is natural and must be expected to continue, America being an exporter under favourable conditions. Lancashire goods, however, hold their own surprisingly well still. Indian, Japanese and local mills meet the demand for coarse yarn, to the detriment of British yarns. By a table giving the value in silver of foreign imports to each port during 1890-1900, Mr. TAYLOR shows that, though the trade has not doubled in bulk, the Chinese are very ready to purchase, even at enhanced prices, foreign goods which have once found favour. The actual quantities imported show a less satisfactory result than might be gathered from the enormous apparent increase in the value of trade, and Mr. TAYLOR therefore, for purposes of comparison, converts the silver figures into sterling at the average rate of exchange for each year. From this he deduces: "There has been an increase, and the Chinese are gradually purchasing more foreign goods, and they are demanding a better class of cotton goods; but the table seems to show that, owing to defective means of communication and the cost of carriage, each port supplies only a restricted district. . . . When

"railways are built we shall see a great advance in the trade, not only because goods will penetrate further, but because a large proportion of the capital used in construction will be spent by the Chinese on foreign goods, to be paid for eventually by exports."

Turning then to exports, Mr. TAYLOR shows how China has been able to spend more on her imports. Bristles, fans, feathers, hemp, hides, mats and mitting, oils, rhubarb, sesamum, skins, tobacco and wool are all progressing trades, he states. Silk is checked by disease among the worms. Black tea has fallen away, green tea is stationary, while brick tea has improved. There is every reason to expect a continued expansion of the trade in "sundries," even supposing the tea and silk export trades receive no encouragement. The low exchange has stimulated exports, the foreign buyer being able to pay more silver to the Chinese seller and at the same time to obtain more goods for an equal amount of sterling.

Mr. TAYLOR's introductory remarks under the heading Foreign Trade may be quoted in their entirety. He says:—"One would naturally have expected a disastrous commercial panic with heavy failures; but the year has been, generally speaking, a fairly good though anxious one. Trade was so brisk during the first six months and revived so strongly towards the close that, contrary to all expectations, the value of the foreign trade was well up to the average of late years, although naturally falling short of such an exceptional year as 1899. At Newchwang such astonishing progress was shown previous to the disturbances that a rapid recovery may be looked for. Tientsin may possibly be adversely affected for some little time, but it is just as likely that the profits of the military occupation and the wide distribution of hoarded wealth which has taken place will lead to an early increase of trade there. Personal experience is more persuasive than advice, and the Chinese Government will probably be more disposed to regard with favour the extension of railways since the arduous journey of the Court to Hsian, to which place supplies came very slowly and suffered considerably in bulk on the road. Famine, too, has come under their immediate notice, and the people were perishing around them without hope of the relief which railways could have brought. Whatever changes may result from the events of 1900, whatever readjustments may take place in the share of the trade taken by each country, it may be confidently expected that the foreign commerce of China, as a whole, will continue the expansion which was so marked in 1899.

Under Shipping, it is to be noted that of a total tonnage, entries and clearances, of 40,807,000 tons, Great Britain contributed 56 per cent., China 19, Germany 10, Japan 2, Sweden and Norway, Russia, and America each 1 per cent.

An enormous import of silver is recorded in 1900, in the shape of British, French and Mexican dollars brought in by the troops. Dollars are said to be ousting sycee in Manchuria, and the same may happen in Chihli. The gold export, principally from Manchuria, was checked by the war; while large quantities of gold coins, chiefly from Japan, were imported and bought freely by the Chinese on account of the ease of carriage in a time of suspense. With more attention to an uniform standard of purity in the Chinese dollar the confidence of the people, at present lacking, may be gained.

Mr. TAYLOR concludes by giving the estimated value of the foreign import and export trade, exclusive of bullion, in the year 1900, which works out thus:—Imports, value at moment of landing, Hk. Tls. 185,870,551; exports, value at moment of shipment, Hk. Tls. 176,680,221. In 1899, it may be seen from the report for that year, the figures were:—Imports, Hk. Tls. 233,953,853; exports, Hk. Tls. 217,610,004. A comparison of these totals and of those of the preceding years seems fully to justify Mr. TAYLOR's optimistic expectations.

THE COURT AND PEKING.

(Daily Press, 22nd July.)

The Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots; neither can the Chinese official surrender his prejudices. Signs of this are abundant. You may compel him to adopt other habits, other customs for the moment whilst abroad, but once back again in the Celestial Empire he promptly returns to his wallow. If foreigners imagine that a new era, with new manners and different customs, will dawn for Peking on the return of the wandering Chinese Court, then are they vastly mistaken. Little will be changed: some buildings will be erected for others which had the merit of comparative antiquity, but nothing else; some Boards or officials will take the place of others, who have perhaps quitted the scene altogether. But on the whole, after a more or less superficial sweeping and garnishing, the spirit of Celestial stagnation will take quiet possession of the capital and district, with the result that the same methods will prevail, the same apathy govern, and the same dislike to innovation inspire the ruling powers. Already there are indications of this, in the repugnance of the Empress Dowager to allow the Court to return to Peking until the invading battalions of foreign troops have removed from the capital. A further proof of this hatred of change and dread of publicity is afforded in a recent Imperial order telegraphed to the Peace Plenipotentiaries, Prince CHING and LI HUNG-CHANG, from Hsianfu. A translation of this interesting document, given by our Shanghai morning contemporary, is to the following effect:—"You are hereby commanded to protest with all your strength to the Ministers of the Foreign Powers against the construction of forts within the area apportioned for the various Legations and closely threatening the 'Forbidden City.' Try your best to make some sort of arrangement to prevent such a step. As for the proposed retention of some Foreign troops to act as railway guards for the North China railways, you are required to arrange for the retention of a strong force for the purpose of suppressing any disorders on the line. The railway terminus must be established outside the walls of the capital; railway carriages must not be permitted to steam straight into Peking, for the sake of the dignity of the place."

The presence of a garrison of any kind is still as objectionable as ever to the Empress Dowager, and the erection of forts behind which they could seek refuge, if attacked, is obviously a sore point with Her Majesty. Why this should be, it is difficult to reconcile with a genuine desire for the restoration of friendly relations with the Powers. It might have been supposed that, after the Foreign Ministers had had so narrow an escape of being massacred and of the Legations being torn down over their heads, the Chinese Government would have been only too ready to agree to any reasonable precaution that would have the effect

of restoring confidence and rendering residence in the capital less irksome. Even if the erection of fortifications did imply a want of confidence in Imperial assurance, the Chinese Government have no right to resent the want of that confidence after last year's treachery. They have done everything to destroy confidence, always a plant of slow growth, and they must be prepared to sacrifice something in order to regain it. But the old lady of Hsianfu is plainly not inclined to make any such sacrifice, nor is she willing even to sanction the establishment of military posts to protect the railway and keep open the route to Tientsin in case of necessity. This must be done by Chinese troops, forsooth, and so far from the occupants of the Legations being reassured by having a means of retreat left in their rear, it is proposed that this be virtually cut off by its being placed in the hands of the very persons who so nearly accomplished the destruction of all foreigners in Peking last year. The Powers are not likely, we imagine, to agree to such a proposal. The Chinese Government have got first to earn the right to be trusted. At present they are on their good behaviour: they are tolerated, of necessity, not trusted. Nor will the plea of the Empress against the railway terminus being allowed to enter Peking weigh much with the Powers, who really desire, on account of the moral effect, to see the iron road penetrate the walls of the city and do its part in breaking down the ramparts of prejudice so long and so jealously maintained. The question of dignity certainly does not come in; the matter of convenience would be much more to the point. There are many great termini in the British metropolis, and the railways are also permitted to enter all the great continental capitals, although in many cases great difficulties have been encountered in constructing them, both in the shape of destruction of buildings and in the piercing of costly tunnels for the purpose. There is nothing either very costly or beautiful in Peking which need stop the way, and the question of sentiment is no stronger than was the case in Europe, where the railway was at first a dubious and not altogether welcome innovation. No one will urge probably that the line be carried into the heart of the so-called "Forbidden City," but there is no reason why the terminus should not be erected within the walls if more convenient for the traffic. The tenor and terms of the Imperial order on the subject, however, show the disposition of the Imperial Government, and it will be useful to take note thereof, so that no delusion may obtain as to the unchanged view of the Chinese officials and Court.

CANTON IN 1900.

(Daily Press, 23rd July.)

The report of the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. PAUL H. KING, on the trade of Canton in the troubled year 1900, will be read with interest, if only to ascertain what effect the crisis of the year had upon the commercial affairs of our Chinese neighbour. Mr. KING tells us in starting that there is gratifyingly little in the Canton figures to suggest the unrest of the South or the absolute chaos of the North in the latter half of 1900. "It is true," he says, "that the value of the export trade has fallen off very considerably, but, as shown later on, from cause referable more especially to the condition of foreign markets rather than to the state of affairs in China; although, of course, the cessation of steamer traffic after June with Tientsin—Canton's best customer for all articles of local provenance

—could not but contribute materially to the general shrinkage." H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG's departure was not followed by the disorders which some anticipated. The Wai-chow rebellion was speedily suppressed by Admiral Ho and his assistants. The anti-Christian movement, starting in Shuntak and spreading thence, was got under by the Chinese authorities, strengthened by the presence of quite a small international fleet off Shameen and the activity of the foreign river gun-boats. The plague never assumed epidemic form, and during the latter half of the year was not heard over in and around Canton. The yield of rice, on the other hand, was abundant, and, given political quiet, Mr. KING says, the indications are distinctly in favour of good trade prospects at Canton in the opening year of this century.

Coming now to details, we find a falling off of Hk. Tls. 177,339 for the revenue figures of 1899, and last year's total was Hk. Tls. 1,838,931, made up thus:—Import duty, Hk. Tls. 49,472; export duty, Hk. Tls. 81,609; coast trade duty, Hk. Tls. 29,029; transit dues, Hk. Tls. 20,394. Against this, opium duty and *lekin* showed small increases and tonnage dues an appreciable gain, being Hk. Tls. 27,100 against the Hk. Tls. 24,135 of 1899.

In the import branch under the heading of Foreign Trade the net figures were within Hk. Tls. 250,000 of those of the previous year, which were some two million taels ahead of the 1889 figures. It will thus be seen, Mr. KING says, that so far as the volume of this branch of trade is concerned, disturbances elsewhere were little felt in Canton. He also reminds us that trade in foreign goods at Canton must not be judged by the published figures alone, for they refer only to imports in foreign bottoms. The competition between native and foreign carriers must be borne in mind, and a decrease in the Imperial Maritime Customs returns does not necessarily mean a falling off in the actual consumption of any article.

Exports showed the much larger decrease of Hk. Tls. 5,903,315 from 1899 and only reached Hk. Tls. 21,578,767. Silk experienced a great falling off, and business was unprofitable alike to natives and foreigners. The competition of low-grade Indian and Ceylon teas in the London market damaged the prospects of the Canton tea market, and the outlook is declared unpromising.

Coast trade in the matter of original shipments coastwise, after a good first half of the year, exhibited a shrinkage of Hk. Tls. 909,340 from the figures of 1899; in coastwise arrivals, on the other hand, the previous year's gain of over four millions was almost maintained and the decrease was but small. The inland transit trade inwards fell off to the extent of over one half of the 1899 figures; while outwards it was in a very healthy condition, and a notable increase was seen in the quantity of brown sugar brought down for re-exportation.

Shipping in 1900 exhibited an increase in the number of vessels and decrease in tonnage from the previous year. In spite of the transfer of some of the China Merchants' steamers to foreign flags, the number of Chinese steamers made an appreciable increase, from 2,968 to 3,440 vessels. Mr. KING gives a table showing for the first time the steam-launch traffic under the Inland Steam Navigation Regulations of 1898, and says:—"Since that date 252 steam-vessels have been registered at Canton, of which 84 are additions—for the most part locally built—during the year under review. During the first half of the year all these boats did well; but as launches increased

"rates fell off, and we are now suffering from an overstocked market. The repairing shops have been fully occupied. All sorts of engineering work can be done here at considerably less than Hongkong rates. So far, judging from results and a happy immunity from accidents, the work must be fairly good; but, possibly, foreign expert inspection, of which at present there is none, might tell a different tale. Nearly the whole fleet is under the Dragon flag, and those launches which do fly foreign ensigns are hardly to be distinguished, as far as their internal economy is concerned, from their native sisters."

With regard to passenger traffic, we find the river steamer figures to and from Hongkong and Macao fully up to the average half-a-million native passengers each way. Conveyance by inland trading launches and their tows is increasingly popular, owing to its speed and regularity, and the figures of 1898 were improved on, it is estimated, by about 40 per cent. New routes were opened in 1900, and the fares lowered. Steam-launches and their tows are recorded to have made no less than 132,792 trips in inland waters during the year.

Finally, we may conclude this review of Mr. KING's report by noting that he does not, like some others, shut his eyes to the existence of piracy in the Canton neighbourhood. Thirty cases were recorded, as against twenty in 1899, and Mr. KING says:—"The delta affords unrivalled facilities to the river thief, and has been his happy hunting-ground for centuries. The provincial government maintained a large force, both ashore and afloat, for the suppression of these 'enemies of the people'; how far their efforts have been successful must be judged from the figures now presented." Testimony of this kind is a valuable argument against the suggestions of those who would make out that the tales of piracies are due to the imagination of the local British Press.

FRENCH INDO-CHINESE RAILWAYS.

(Daily Press, 24th July.)

A correspondent, writing to an Indo-Chinese contemporary, makes some interesting remarks on the subject of the Hanoi-Yunnanfu Railway. The writer is obviously acquainted personally with the ground which will be covered by the line when completed, which lends weight to what he says. He commences by admitting the utility and political necessity of the undertaking, but warns shareholders against chimerical hopes of fabulous dividends. Loakay to Yunnanfu is a distance of 450 to 470 kilometres (320 to 330 miles). The guaranteed interest of 4½ per cent. works out at three million francs on a recent estimate of the Public Works Department, and at four millions and a half on the amended figures. On one-third of the 450 kilometres, the section between Loakay and Mengtze, trade can bring but few returns. Foreign trade, both imports and exports, from Yunnan via Mengtze and Loakay reached 8,000 tons in 1898. It may be assumed, says the French writer, that these 8,000 tons can be considered as circulating wholesale from Loakay to a point midway between Mengtze and Yunnanfu. Making a liberal allowance of another 8,000 tons for the interior commerce, we get a return of 16,000 for the 300 kilometres. Again, allowing for an initial tripling of trade by the introduction of the railway, a rough estimate of 50,000 tons carried by the line is arrived at. With the moderate allowance of 10

centimes per ton per kilomètre—a necessary allowance, the writer says, in view of the numerous British competing routes with constantly diminishing tariffs—we get the net annual receipt of 1,500,000 francs. Against this must be put the expenses of exploitation, which may be reckoned at three-fifths of the receipts, and numerous minor expenses, all of which the writer puts at 900,000 francs, leaving a net profit of 600,000 francs. It will take several years before this sum can be exceeded, and it is unnecessary to insist that these 600,000 francs will not satisfy the demands of guaranteed interest, etc. A reserve fund to meet the deficit is immediately necessary. This can only be raised out of the surplus receipts of the colony. The Vietri-Laokay railway will, for many years at least, only be fed by the line from Yunnan, while the lines from Mytho to Vinh-long, from Hanoi to Langson, and others can only just be self-supporting for some time. Consequently, on account of the Indo-Chinese railways, which are the property of the colony itself, and the Yunnan railway, which is guaranteed by the colony, Indo-China must find the interest due to the shareholders. When the lines are completed, four or five million francs a year will thus be called for, which will make a heavy drain on the expenses of Indo-China. To meet this, says the French writer, a heavy increase must be made in taxation, which will arouse discontent among the inhabitants. Would it not be better therefore, he asks, to increase taxes gradually in advance and create a reserve fund to meet the calls made by those entitled to interest, during the construction of the lines. Then, when an important traffic shall have sprung up through the presence of the railways, it will be possible to remove the heavy charges, which will no longer have a reason for existence.

Our French contemporary to whom the correspondent above mentioned addressed his remarks, asks the question whether, in view of the weighty imposition on Indo-China by this railway enterprise, the scheme is a mistake, and answers decidedly, No. The English in Burma, it continues, have not waited so long, and they are assuredly practical people. Yunnan is eminently a country worth striving for; and by the construction of the French railroad Yunnan "will be for ever closed to British influence which is striving to get in by Upper Burma." There has never been any concealment, on the part of the French, that their main object in pressing on over the Yunnan border is to prevent the British from getting any foothold in the province. Hence we need not feel surprise at the frank unfriendliness of the language used. It looks as if the only inducement which can reconcile M. DOUMER's opponents to his schemes of expansion is the thought that by consenting to them they are at least striking a blow at Great Britain. The amiability of such a line of conduct we need not discuss, nor could it have any bearing on the question, were it not that the British Government is less than indifferent, to all appearances, to the efforts of its countrymen to tap the resources of Southern China from the side of Burma and India. Our French critics talk admiringly of British practicality. We are compelled to recognise that this is only true of individuals. As far as the respective Governments are concerned, the advantage rests with the French. There are many points in our favour, chiefly arising from the aversion of French traders to leave France and the protective policy which cripples French colonial industry. But if the support of the British Government be waited for, it still seems as if

France would win the race for predominance in Yunnan; and that means, as the French bluntly declare, the total exclusion of British trade.

PRINCE CHUN'S VISIT TO HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 25th July.)

Prince CHUN, who will land this morning in Hongkong from the German mail steamer *Bayern*, will not, in the circumstances of his present mission, be received with the honours which would otherwise be called for by his eminent rank. As was felt in Shanghai, until the mission of apology to Germany for the murder of Baron von KETTELER has been carried out, any public demonstration would be unsuitable. Moreover, even were this not so, the brief stay of the *Bayern* in our harbour would render any festivities on a large scale impossible. It is probable that the Prince after his formal call at Government House will be entertained at a luncheon there, but whether he will make any other calls cannot yet be said. We learn that the Chinese Club propose to invite His Imperial Highness to a tea in his honour on their premises, but it is not known of course whether he will be able to accept the invitation. Certain Chinese deputations will call on Prince CHUN on board the *Bayern* as early as possible, and among these will be a party from Canton, representing the leading officials there, a number of leading Chinese from Hongkong of "mandarin" rank, and a deputation from the Imperial Maritime Customs. Apart from these courtesies, it is not probable that the ordinary course of events will be disturbed. The Chinese, we believe, will not attempt anything in the way of decoration, and the Prince will not have an extraordinary guard of honour. What would in ordinary circumstances be the occasion for a great display of international courtesy must, owing to the motives of the Prince's journey to Berlin, be observed in very sober fashion. When the mission has been accomplished, matters will be different, and, as we already know, Prince CHUN is likely to visit the principal European countries before his return home. On the latter part of his journey he will no doubt meet with a more adequate reception. Report speaks well of the Prince. In appearance he is said to be very like his brother the Emperor KWANG HSU, but he is somewhat taller and darker. In our Shanghai contemporary, the *North-China Daily News*, he is thus described as he landed in Shanghai:—"He was 'certainly a prepossessing figure. First, 'he is young—just out of his teens—a 'clean-run, wholesome-looking youth. If 'anything he is slightly under the average 'height, but apparently well-knit, holding 'himself well, and looking honestly and 'straight. He has a ready and attractive 'smile, and when later in the day he 'received callers, he impressed everyone 'with a very engaging manner and a very 'evident desire to please." As will be remembered, Prince CHUN has been mentioned as a probable successor to his brother's throne; but from a Chinese point of view this would not be regarded as acceptable. Nevertheless he ranks, of course, very high among princes of the blood, and at any other time his visit to Hongkong would be an event of no little importance.

(Daily Press, 26th July.)

Prince CHUN's reception in Hongkong yesterday was, as we had anticipated, a very sober affair, and there was little to indicate that a brother of the reigning Emperor of

China was on a visit to this Colony. The purely private character of the proceedings was plainly visible. Apart from the lantern decorations on the front of the Imperial Bank of China, there was nothing either on the Praya or in Queen's Road Central to indicate that anything out of the common was expected. Chinese sightseers, it is true, were collected in small crowds at various points from an early hour, but no excitement whatever on the part of the European residents, was to be noted. The circumstances of His Imperial Highness's visit are of course responsible for this state of affairs. It would not only be unsuitable, but a positive affront to our German friends, had any demonstration been made yesterday, and the informal nature of the ceremonies was exactly what propriety demanded. The visit of H.E. the Governor to the *Bayern* and the call of the Prince and his suite at Government House were pre-eminently quiet events, and the courtesies were such only as were demanded by the occasion. The Prince himself created an excellent impression. His manners were such as we had been led to expect, and his affability was marked. His visit to Hongkong cannot but be productive of an improvement of the feeling toward the present ruling family in China.

Having said so much, we cannot refrain from commenting on the inadequacy of the police preparations, which converted what would otherwise have been a decorous proceeding into a scene of which we cannot feel proud. In other respects the arrangements for the Prince's reception were well studied, but we do not think that the fact of the too early landing of the Imperial party exonerates the police from blame for their deficiencies. It is certain that, had the military authorities been in charge of the duty of escorting the Prince to Government House, the guard of honour would have been in attendance more than half-an-hour before the time fixed for landing. As matters turned out, the police escort was not visible until at an absurdly late hour in the proceedings, and our visitors had to force their way through a gaping and unmannerly crowd up to Government House. By this conduct the wishes of H.E. the Governor, we feel sure, were absolutely frustrated, and most certainly the Colony has, against its desire, been made to appear lacking in courtesy. Such an accident as marred yesterday proceedings is not easily excusable, and it is due both to the inhabitants of Hongkong and to His Majesty's representative here to say so.

THE SHANGHAI GARRISON.

(Daily Press, 27th July.)

The assertion of Lord CRANBORNE, as reported in REUTER's telegram, with regard to the retention of foreign troops in Shanghai, seems partly superfluous and partly of that soothing nature which is ministerially supposed to make statements reassuring to the home public. There is of course no alienation of Chinese territory involved in a temporary stoppage of a few European contingents in the foreign Settlements at Shanghai. If and when these troops are withdrawn the status of the Settlements will be as before, with their boundaries presumably no larger than now. Leaving out the question of the necessity of this retention of troops, we do not suppose that any clear-headed man considers it to be part of a scheme of land-conquest from China. Again, Lord CRANBORNE is alleged to have asserted that the presence of these troops does not "constitute any infringement of

Chinese assurances to Great Britain in regard to the Yangtze." These assurances, we presume, are those relating to the non-alienation of the Yangtze Valley to any other Power, wherefore it is not necessary to point that the garrisoning of Shanghai against the wishes of China cannot constitute the infringement of any Chinese assurance. It is probable that what Lord Cranborne really said was something to the effect that the presence of European troops in Shanghai did not invalidate Great Britain's position in the Yangtze Valley as guaranteed by China's promise of non-alienation of this region to any other Power. Such a remark would naturally be prompted by recent German "spread-eagleism" over Germany's position on the Yangtze, of which German papers in the Far East have been writing in such bombastic strain lately. The position of all the nations on the Yangtze is exactly the same in principle as it was before. The door is no more open to-day, through the presence of a few German and other soldiers, than five years ago. The *Japan Mail* a fortnight ago justly dismissed the vapourings of the Teutonic press, when it said:—"The German 'journal of Shanghai, and several journals in Germany, allege that the purpose of the [Anglo-German] convention was to confer on Germany rights in the Yangtze equal to those possessed there by England. If any significance whatever attaches to such rights, their practical assertion would be directly opposed to the avowed purpose of the convention, which is to preserve the integrity of the Chinese empire. It thus follows that the German interpreters of the document assign to it a meaning entirely subversive of its declared intention."

They could not fail to understand the futility of alleging that England, while pledging herself conventionally to abstain from all aggressive designs in China, really regarded the pledge as an engagement to promote the prosecution of such designs by another Power in conjunction with herself. Every German assigning such a significance to the document must be fully sensible that he is endeavouring to commit England to a purpose wholly foreign to her real object in negotiating the convention." Nevertheless, the remarks of various German organs seem to show that they are imbued with very curious ideas about the convention.

The error of such a line of argument as our German contemporaries adopt is obvious. There is no proposal for an Anglo-German condominium in Central China, and no stretch of the interpretation of the joint convention can avail to cover this. No one in Great Britain has counter-acted such a gloss on the document, and the other Powers who, with various degrees of sincerity, subscribed to its guarantee of the integrity of China have certainly no idea of reading any such meaning into it. If the writers who have been endeavouring to distort the plain intention of the agreement, with all the subtlety which they can command, were to devote their energies to seeing that, as far as they are concerned, the agreement shall not become merely a dead letter, they would be serving their country's interests far better and would avoid giving grounds for suspicions of that country's honesty. It cannot be doubted that the unwise utterances of those Englishmen who talked so much about the "British sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley" only succeeded in arousing the jealousy of other nations, and helped to imperil the integrity of China. There exists now a plain compact, to which every Power has assented, whereby the continuance of the Chinese

Empire is made a matter of faith in Europe, America, and Japan. The carrying out of this compact will prove no light task, and all public writers and speakers with honest intentions should lend their aid in its maintenance. We do not think that Lord Cranborne's mild assurances will do much to help the cause. With regard to Shanghai, each nation now engaged in the work of "garrisoning" the port will assuredly wait upon the others. But, provided that nothing untoward occurs in the shape of fresh disturbances, the retention of a number of foreign troops will ultimately become as ridiculous as it is already irksome to the civilian inhabitants. Then the question of expense may be allowed to weigh, with the result of a simultaneous withdrawal by the Powers concerned. It is difficult to see how otherwise their *bona-fides* in the matter of the convention can be established.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 19th July, 8.6 p.m.

Prince Chun lunched with the German Consul yesterday. His programme to-day, which should have consisted of visits with the British Consul to the Country Club, the Race Club, the Town Hall, the *North China Daily News* office and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, with a lunch on board H.M.S. *Arethusa*, was all abandoned owing to his suffering from an attack of diarrhoea.

SHANGHAI, 21st July, 7.20 p.m.

It is officially reported that there is a serious secret society outbreak at Hsinghua, in Fokkien province, where is the Rev. Ohlinger's mission.

SHANGHAI, 23rd July, 5 p.m.

The British gunboat *Woodlark* and the French cruiser *Decidée* have gone to Nanchang, in Kinngsi province, owing to reports of friction between Protestant and Roman Catholic converts.

SHANGHAI, 24th July, 7.40 p.m.

The natives report, with a certain appearance of truth, that the Chinese and Russian troops have been seriously defeated by the insurgents in South-East Manchuria, and that the latter are now destroying the telegraph lines.

SHANGHAI, 26th July, 7.30 a.m.

Prince Su probably goes to London on a special mission.

An official arrived here to-day, having left Hsianfu on the 9th inst. He asserts that the Court absolutely has no intention of returning to Peking.

Admiral Bridge arrived yesterday, and proceeds to Hongkong on the flagship *Glory* on Monday next.

The local agents of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha informed us on Friday afternoon that a telegram from the Head Office in Tokyo came to hand on the previous evening (24th inst.), reading as follows:—"Kinshiu Maru stranded Quelpart Island, Corea, 20th July, on the voyage from Moji to Shanghai. Passengers and mails safe. We have no further particulars. Are sending *Wakanoura Maru* to-night from Moji for assistance." The *Kinshiu Maru* (American Line) left Seattle on the 24th June last for Hongkong via Japan ports and Shanghai.

PRINCE CHUN IN HONGKONG.

THE ARRIVAL: H.E. THE GOVERNOR'S CALL.

Ever since it was known that the *Bayern* had left Shanghai for this port, people here, European and Chinese alike, have awaited with interest the arrival of Prince Chun, the younger brother of the Emperor of China, who has been entrusted with the important mission of proceeding to Germany to apologise for the murder of her representative in Peking, Baron von Ketteler, in May, 1900. The mission started from Peking on 12th July, and proceeded to Shanghai, which it left on the 20th, arriving here about 6 a.m. on the 25th inst. The *Bayern* was expected on Wednesday, but her arrival was delayed by a very simple incident. Time and tide wait for no man, not even for princes, and when the *Bayern* tried to negotiate the bar at Foochow she found the tide to be too low, and had perforce to wait till flood. Thus she was quite a day behind when Hongkong was reached, and arrangements for the reception of Prince Chun doubtless received an unexpected set-back. But there was no mistake on the second occasion, and when the Colony awoke from its slumbers yesterday morning it was to find that its distinguished visitor was waiting to be welcomed.

We are told that when Prince Chun left the C. M. S. *Anping* at Shanghai, he landed to find a city and people *en fête* in anticipation of his advent. The Chinese were out in their thousands, filling road and pavement, and soldiers and police who had been deputed to conduct the Royal visitor through the various settlements to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs had simply to force a way for the passage of the green chair, curtained at the sides, which bore the Prince. Hongkong yesterday did not turn out in thousands, not even in hundreds, and the hitch which occurred at Blake Pier rendered the Prince's landing a very tame spectacle. Of course, as has already been said, what would in ordinary circumstances have been the occasion for a great display of international courtesy had, owing to the motives of the Prince's journey to Berlin, to be observed in very sober fashion.

When the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer *Bayern* was moored at No. 3 Wharf, Kowloon, at 6.45 a.m. yesterday, a representative of the *Daily Press* boarded her in search of information. The steamer, he was told, had fine weather all along, and the passengers enjoyed a very pleasant trip from Shanghai. Prince Chun seemed to have especially enjoyed the journey. "He could not help doing so," added Captain Becker, as he ran his eye over the fine ship under his command. Enquiries regarding Prince Chun's health showed that His Highness has entirely recovered from the attack of dysentery he had in Shanghai. He appears as though twenty-three or twenty-four years old, while in reality he is only in his twentieth year. He is not tall—in fact, he is if anything below medium height.

The Chinese gunboat anchored on the other side of the harbour fired a salute as the *Bayern* made for the wharf, and the foreign warships hoisted the Yellow Dragon. At Foochow, the salutes are said to have been so numerous and rapid that the smoke completely enveloped the *Bayern*, which had difficulty in coming to a safe anchorage.

It was about 9 o'clock when H.E. the Governor, accompanied by Mr. R. Twyman, H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Canton, on the steam-launch *Victoria*, paid his call on the Prince and ascertained that the return visit at Government House would be made at 11 a.m. His Excellency then re-embarked and came back to Hongkong.

THE PRINCE'S VISIT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

It had been intimated, as we said, that His Highness would call on H.E. at Government House at 11 o'clock, and the launch *Victoria* was placed at his disposal. Great numbers of Chinese, principally of the working and coolie classes, were waiting along the Praya between Blake and Murray Piers, and when the launch, flying at its stern the Yellow Dragon, was seen to be steaming for the former pier, a rush in that direction began, and a crowd of between two and three hundred Chinese soon lined the

wharf, with not a single policeman in sight. The *Victoria* reached the landing stage a few minutes after half-past ten, but the Prince and his party did not immediately disembark, and indeed appeared to be waiting for something. Ten minutes later the green chair was placed in position. Up till now the crowd had held back, probably deterred from encroaching by the presence of several Europeans, kodak-armed, on the pier, but when the Prince—a pleasant-faced, modest youth who had been all along sitting quietly in a deck-chair—was seen preparing to leave the *Victoria*, all backwardness was thrown to the winds and the chair was immediately surrounded by malodorous, shouting, pushing coolies, whom the members of the Imperial suite, in the absence of the evidently expected escort of police, had themselves to force to one side to permit of the passage of His Highness. The crowd pressed round the Prince's chair, and in their rude eagerness to get a glimpse of the figure inside interfered at every step with its eight bearers, who had to pick their way. There was absolutely no order—not a vestige of it, and the chairs of Major-General von Richter and of the other members of the suite were separated from that of His Highness by the same shouting, unruly element, who ran here and there, from one chair to another, but always leaving a body to surround the Prince's chair. One or two Indian and Chinese policemen were passed in Pedder's Street, at the crossing of Queen's Road, and in Wyndham Street, but they simply stared. And so it was up to Government House, where two Indian soldiers under a corporal presented arms as the Imperial visitor, after a wait of a few minutes, entered the enclosure. Prince Chun was received by H. E. the Governor, who was accompanied by Lady and Miss Blake and his Secretary and aide-de-camp. There were also present Colonel Brown (Commanding the Troops), Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, C.M.G., and Mrs. Stewart-Lockhart, Commodore Powell and his Secretary (Mr. Motton), Captain Packenham (H.M.S. *Daphne*), Captain Tillard (H.M.S. *Dido*), Captain Wyndham (H.M.S. *Isis*), Mr. Twymen (H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Canton), Captain Saunders, H.K.V.C. (Hon. A.D.C.), and a number of military and naval officers.

His Imperial Highness spent about three-quarters of an hour at Government House, conversing with His Excellency and the others present through the medium of Dr. George Mark (now Taotai Mak Shun Kin), who is well-known in Hongkong and Canton as having been Secretary and Physician to H.E. Li Hung-chang at Canton, and who is at present acting in the same capacity to Prince Chun. The Prince was shown over Government House, and inspected the portraits of the late Queen and of George IV, in which he exhibited considerable interest. He also wrote his name in the Visitor's Book, the Imperial signature covering no little space. Before leaving, he expressed a desire that some photographs should be taken to commemorate the occasion, and two were accordingly arranged, one of Prince Chun and Sir Henry Blake alone, and another of the whole group. It had been hoped that Prince Chun would accept an invitation to luncheon at Government House, but he had already made arrangement to visit the Chinese Club, and accordingly left near noon, having promised to pay an informal visit to the Peak with H.E. the Governor at one o'clock.

Soon after the arrival of Prince Chun, a telephonic message to the Central Police Station summoned an escort of police. In answer, twelve policemen—six Europeans and six Indians—under a sergeant, were dispatched to Government House, where they arrived shortly after eleven o'clock. The reception being over, Prince Chun and his party, now escorted by a guard, made a comparatively easy and pleasant way to the Chinese Club, where he was entertained.

AT THE CHINESE CLUB.

At the Chinese Club there was an extra guard of honour made up of Sikh policemen under Captain Superintendent May. The interior was beautifully decorated, and was crowded with members and the leading Chinese of the Colony. Prince Chun was welcomed by the representative of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company and of the Chang On Insurance Company, each of whom occupies

official rank. His Highness was also greeted by a deputation from the Viceroy at Canton. These formalities over, the Prince sat down to tea. He doffed his official robes, and sat down in ordinary Chinese summer costume, chatting freely to those around him. His retinue retained their official dress, and waited respectfully in attendance. Major-General von Richter was present. Refreshments were lavishly provided, and visitors made welcome. The reception lasted for half-an-hour, when Prince Chun left on his return to Government House. A large crowd of Chinese waited outside, and as the Prince left the Club, the demonstration was one that did not reflect creditably on the police. The mob got completely out of hand, and subjected Prince Chun and his retinue to the same unpleasant experiences that marked their landing at Blake Pier earlier in the day. Eventually order, or a semblance of it, was restored, and the party started for the Peak Tramway.

THE FAREWELL CEREMONIES.

When H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake, accompanied by the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Private Secretary to the Governor, and certain members of Prince Chun's suite who had remained at Government House, reached the Tram Station, they found that His Imperial Highness and the rest of his suite had just got there before them. After a few minutes' waiting, the one o'clock car arrived, and the whole party embarked on their journey up the tramway, where Prince Chun had the opportunity of seeing the principal beauties of our island. A considerable portion of the time was spent at the Governor's Peak residence, "The Cliffs."

The return from the Peak was made soon after 3 p.m., and at about 3.30 Prince Chun and his suite left Murray Pier and returned to the *Bayern*. At 5 o'clock, H. E. the Governor, accompanied by his Private Secretary, embarked from Murray Pier on the *Victoria*, crossed the harbour to the *Bayern*, paid a short farewell call, and then returned to the same pier.

The Prince's suite consists of about thirty officials, half of them mandarins, the remainder servants and guards. The following officers form the suite:—Cheung Yik, Chancellor—acting as Adviser; Yam Cheong, Assistant Tartar General—Secretary; Leung Shing, Taotai—Secretary; Mak Shun Kin, Taotai—Secretary; Lau Cho Kwai, Taotai—Secretary; Chang Yin, Assistant Secretary of Board—Attendant; Tsang Kwang Yung—Attendant; Wong Foon, Prefect—Attendant; Chi Kak, Prefect—Translator; Ng Chung Yin, Sub-Prefect—Translator; Yeung Shu Man, Magistrate—Translator; Man Yam Son, Sub-Magistrate—Translator; Wong Ying Sui—Doctor. The German officers, Major-General von Richter and Lieutenant Freiherr von Rauch are accompanying Prince Chun on his mission to Germany.

The Prince and his suite will leave the *Bayern* at Genoa, and thence travel overland to Berlin. There will be no official receptions in Europe until Prince Chun reaches the German capital and has fulfilled his mission.

Outside of the mission, the *Bayern* carries 37 first-class passengers and 17 officers and 301 men of the 9th Company, 4th Ostasiatische Battalion German Infantry, also a Company of "Jägers" with their famous dogs, which are used on the field of battle to find out the positions of dead and wounded soldiers.

These dogs gave a novel exhibition of their sagacity on the way down here, and were warmly admired by Prince Chun. A soldier, apparently wounded, lay down on the deck, and a dog was sent to search for him. The animal came upon the prostrate man, took off his helmet, and ran back with it to an officer, whom the dog then piloted to the place where the soldier lay. On the way, the two—officer and dog—passed a German staff-surgeon who was not of the Company on board the *Bayern*. The dog had probably never seen him before, but apparently recognising that he was a doctor, demonstrated his knowledge of the fact to the best of his canine ability and eventually persuaded the surgeon to turn back with him.

The *Bayern* resumed its journey towards Genoa at 6.20 p.m. on the 25th inst., amid the salutes of the warships in harbour, led by H.M.S.S. *Tamar*, *Dido*, and *Isis*.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 25th inst. at the Board-room. The President (Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were present the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. A. Brewin (Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

PREVIOUS MINUTES.

The PRESIDENT asked if the Board approved of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board.

Mr. BREWIN—I should like to have this remark of mine on the first page left out. I don't think it is worthy of recording. It was only a casual remark.

Mr. BREWIN explained that the remark he referred to was included in the discussion at the last meeting on the action to be taken with regard to Mount Caroline Cemetery. He continued—I don't approve of this practice of putting down abstracts of members' remarks. It is not done in the Legislative Council. Any one referring to the *Daily Press* can see who the remarks are made by.

Mr. MAY—I hope they won't, or they will see something very wrong.

It was agreed that Mr. Brewin's remark be deleted from the minutes.

MR. MAY ON THE PRESS.

Rising in his seat and leaning forward, Mr. MAY said—Sir, I think at the same time that in future minutes these abstracts ought to be left out. They ought simply to read—"Mr. Fung Wa Chuen addressed the Board," "Mr. Osborne addressed the Board," "Dr. Bell addressed the Board," and so on. That is the correct way of doing it. I should like to suggest that we ask the Government to be allowed to incur a certain sum of money every year—whatever sum may be found necessary—to have the reports of these meetings edited by the members, and then printed, like the reports of the meetings of the Legislative Council, which are kept in Hansard shape. I think not only myself, but every member of the Board, has serious complaints against the way we are reported in the Press. We are made to talk absolute nonsense, and I notice recently that the Governor addressed a minute to the Secretary or the Medical Officer of Health to know what such-and-such a member said. I certainly object to having my remarks going down into posterity as reported in the Press. The Press here appears to be incapable of reporting anybody correctly, and in the circumstances the best thing we can do is follow the example of the Legislative Council and correct our own speeches, and get something which will give at any rate an intelligent idea of what we mean.

The PRESIDENT seconded Mr. May's proposal.

Following the adoption of the proposal, the reporters present rose from their seats and left the remainder of the meeting to the Secretary of the Board. The appended account of the business done is minus all discussions.

FURTHER REPORT BY THE SANITARY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.

A further report, signed by Dr. Clark and Mr. E. Osborne, of the Sanitary Improvement Committee, was submitted. The recommendations contained in the report are:—

(1) To repeal sub-Section (c) of Section 56 of Ordinance 13 of 1901, which allows house-owners to provide a back lane in lieu of a yard.

(2) To recommend that no Crown land be sold in future without provision being made for a 15-foot scavenging lane in the rear of all domestic buildings erected thereon.

(3) To mark off on a map of the City of Victoria, back lanes to all existing blocks of domestic buildings and arrange that whenever a domestic building or block of buildings is taken down and rebuilt, the space shown on the map as part of the lane in the rear of such property shall be left vacant, and shall then be resumed by the Government at its market value. This open space will immediately benefit (a) the new building, (b) the building, if any, which is back to back with new building, (c) the buildings abutting laterally on the open space and (d) the

neighbourhood generally, by reducing surface-crowding, and in course of time these open spaces will unite to form the necessary lanes. It must be definitely laid down that these open spaces resumed by the Crown are not to take the place of the open spaces which the law requires the owner to provide in connection with his house, but will be in addition to such private open spaces or yards.

(4) The person from whom the land is resumed should be required, when building his new house, to concrete, channel and drain this particular open space, as long as it remains an isolated area and is not a thoroughfare, and in return for this he may be allowed to use it as an additional yard, and must provide a doorway into it, but must not erect any obstruction therein. All houses, whether old or new, abutting on such open space, should be required to open windows of an area of at least 10 square feet into it, so as to get the full benefit of this additional lung.

(5) It must be distinctly provided that, when these Crown lanes are formed, no domestic buildings may under any circumstances be erected fronting thereon. It will be seen that this scheme will spread the expense of providing scavenging lanes over a considerable number of years and yet will immediately benefit the community by providing additional open spaces and reducing the present excessive surface-crowding. Taking \$15 a foot as the average cost of most of the land which will be thus resumed, and assuming that not more than 200 of the new houses erected yearly in the city will necessitate this immediate resumption, we find that the annual cost of the scheme will amount to about \$70,000 per annum. Such an expenditure could only be met by a loan for the purpose, and we see no reason whatever why this colony should not raise a loan of five or ten million dollars for sanitary purposes, repayable in twenty-five or thirty years. No second-rate city in Great Britain would hesitate for a moment to do so, if it had had one-tenth of the experience of plague that we have had. The Census Returns of 1897 showed that in the central districts of the City of Victoria (Districts 4 to 9 inclusive) comprising two hundred and forty acres, there were 504.47 persons to the acre; the Census taken this year shows there are now 514.02 persons to the acre. The most densely populated metropolitan districts of London, namely, Whitechapel, St. George's in the East, St. Saviour's, Southwark, and St. Olave's, Southwark do not contain more than 200 persons to the acre, and no time should be lost therefore in reducing this excessive surface-crowding by (1) prohibiting the further erection of lofty buildings in narrow streets and (2) by resuming open spaces.

B (1) The other matter which we wish to bring to the notice of the Board is the unsatisfactory manner in which the cleansing and limewashing of tenement houses and of the coolie quarters attached to offices and dwellings within the city limits is now carried out, and we suggest that this work should be done by a properly trained staff of cleansers and limewashers, acting under direction of officers of the Sanitary Board, and that its cost should be recovered by a special tax levied upon the owner of the house, and collected by the Treasury in the usual manner. There would be no difficulty in carrying out this scheme, as with an adequate staff the whole city and also the villages could be cleansed and limewashed from one end to the other, half-yearly, as is now required by law, and we are convinced that it would be done in a far more effectual manner than at present, and would result in a much greater degree of cleanliness than at present exists in such houses.

(2) With regard to the details of this scheme, we consider that the following staff will be required:—

CLEANSING.

2 European Inspectors, 2nd class ..	\$3,120
2 Portuguese foremen	720
2 Chinese foremen	360
36 coolies	4,320
1 dust-boat	1,500
2 dust-carts (20 coolies)	2,400
Brooms, baskets, buckets, etc. ..	480
Uniforms	200

\$13,100

LIMEWASHING.

25,000 floors at \$1.20 per floor ... \$30,000

\$43,100

The cost would therefore be less than \$45,000 a year, and this would have to be recovered from the owners of property whose duty it now is, by law, to do this work.

The Hon. F. H. May, the third member of the committee, failed to sign the above letter for reasons given as follows: "I cannot sign this report because I do think the proposals contained in 'A' are the best that can be evolved for dealing with the object in view. A scheme of resumption of insanitary areas and of improvements of areas by widening existing tracts or opening up new ones requires, I think, to be undertaken on a comprehensive plan, and not piecemeal as is suggested. I think 'B' is a good suggestion which should be recommended."

The report was adopted.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE CENTRAL MARKET.

The following is the report of the committee appointed to consider the question of the better lighting of the Central Market: "We inspected the market, on the night of the 19th June, in company with Mr. Wickham, manager of the Electric Co., and made a number of suggestions with a view to the improvement of the lighting. The necessary alterations and additions having been made, we again inspected the market on the night of the 8th July. We consider that the artificial lighting is now sufficient for all purposes as far as the public are concerned. Lamps are still in general use in the shops and stalls. It is possible that, in the earlier part of the forenoon, these lamps may be at present required, especially on the ground floor of the market. The natural lighting still remains to be improved by increasing the height of the windows. It appears, however, from our inspection that the shopholders will continue to supplement the lighting for purposes of book-keeping. In the case of the fruit shops on the upper floor and several others, the lighting was much obstructed by the hanging of fruit and storing of baskets, etc., on top of the shops. In these cases no general scheme of lighting can be of benefit—the shops must be lighted internally by the shopholders. We are not aware of any accident having ever occurred through the use of oil lamps in the market, but it might be well for the Board to consider whether the use of electric light should not be insisted upon in all cases. There are possible difficulties in the way of such an arrangement as to the amount which should be charged for lamps, as some of the shop-holders might burn them during the greater part of the day. The use of oil lamps overcomes any difficulty of this nature. In any case the flare lamps (without chimneys) should be abolished at once."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. E. Osborne: "The Electric Co., I understand, are willing to supply lights to stall-holders at a fixed monthly rate, and I think the oil lamps should be abolished and electricity made compulsory."

Dr. Clark: "I am personally in favour of requiring electric lamps inside the stalls; they are the safest, and would meet the V.P.'s suggestion as to uniformity."

Hon. F. H. May: "I think it might be arranged with the stall-holders for them all to use a uniform pattern, of good, safe type, of oil lamp. If this were done, perhaps the difficulty would be overcome. Cheap, ill-constructed lamps are dangerous and flare lights insanitary."

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. BREWIN, the report was adopted.

REPORT OF THE QUARTERLY INSPECTION COMMITTEE.

The quarterly report of Messrs. May, Osborne and Fung Wa Chen, the members of the Inspection Committee, was submitted. The report, which is dated 11th July, reads:—

"The sub-committee for quarterly inspection were unable for various reasons to make the inspection for the second quarter of the year before the close of the quarter. They made it on the 6th inst., and visited the following houses and streets in No. 9 Health District:—

"Eastern Street, No. 7—Clean.

"Reinecker Street, No. 13—Clean. This street is a private one, and is very much obstructed by the storage therein of all sorts of merchandise and miscellaneous goods.

"Queen's Road West, No. 244—These premises are a Chinese bakery for foreign bread, cakes, and biscuits. Biscuits in tins are stored on the first floor, which is used as a dormitory for the employees, in contravention of the Bakehouse Bye-laws. The bakery itself on the ground floor was clean, but is not as well lighted as a bakery ought to be.

"Queen's Road West, No. 246—The flue from the kitchen on the ground floor is out of use, and the occupants have made a hole in the wall and create a nuisance by letting the smoke from the fireplace discharge into the lane at the back, at a height of some six feet from the ground.

"Queen's Road West, Nos. 248, 252, and 253—Clean. No remarks.

"Algar Court—No remarks.

"First Street, No. 85—Clean. No remarks except that the rent of the 2nd floor, a coolie-house, has been raised from \$10 to \$14 a month within the last few days.

"Hung San Lane—No remarks.

"Sheung Fung Lane—There are too many inhabitants in this narrow lane. It is like an overcrowded rabbit-warren. We found illegal partitions of wood in the ground floors of Nos. 5, 7 and 20. Generally the district was in a cleanly condition."

Mr. Brewin minuted: "When was Sheung Fung Lane last visited by the District Inspector?"

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, it was agreed to forward the report to Government.

HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS AND PLAGUE.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary stating that H.E. the Governor is by no means satisfied that the height of buildings is proved to be the cause of plague or of any other zymotic disease.

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Clark: I have the honour to report that the zymotic death-rate was made up last year almost entirely by bubonic plague and diarrhoea, and that 39.1 per cent. of the deaths from this latter disease occurred in infants under one year of age, so that it can hardly be said that zymotic death-rate gets rid of the difficulty of the infant mortality. There can be no doubt, special reasons—entirely unconnected with surface-crowding—why bubonic plague should be more prevalent year after year in health districts 2 and 9 than in the rest of the city, and one of these reasons may possibly be found in the nature of the Chinese population which resides therein, the bulk of which is said to be of a lower social grade and less cleanly in its habits than the population of the more central districts.

"It will be seen from the tabular statements that the two most densely crowded Health Districts (5 and 6), each of which has a population of over 800 persons to the acre, show the lowest zymotic death-rate, and I may add that the total death-rate per district gives the same result. No greater argument could, I think, be adduced to prove how absolutely unreliable are the district death-rates for purposes of deduction (as already stated in my minutes of March 12th and May 17th herein). They show, in my opinion, that we must go to other sources for information as to the evil effects of surface-crowding, and the information is furnished by every civilised city that has a resident and not a shifting population such as ours. It can hardly be seriously argued that, in Hongkong, surface-crowding is beneficial to the community, and yet this is the only deduction that can be drawn from such figures as are at our disposal.

"It is estimated that nearly two thousand Chinese leave this Colony daily for the mainland of China, and that rather more than that number return each day, so that there is simple opportunity for the vitiation of our statistics of sickness and deaths, while at the same time the districts in which the inhabitants are poorest will probably be the least affected by this daily exodus.

"Every professional man who has made a study of the zymotic diseases (and especially of bubonic plague) agrees that their diffusion is greatly encouraged by the absence of light

and air in dwellings, and I take this opportunity of giving the following quotations from some of the most modern standard works on the subject of bubonic plague:—

"The most important safeguards against the generation and spread of plague are personal cleanliness, the removal of organic waste from about the dwellings, good drainage of the soil and the prevention of overcrowding." *Abbott, 1899.*

"Plague is an infectious filth disease, fostered by destitution, overcrowding and lack of ventilation." *Whitelegge, 1899.*

"The most potent circumstances which predispose to the epidemic outbreak of plague are filth and overcrowding. In such circumstances the virus, once introduced, tends to spread. . . . It may be difficult to indicate the exact way or ways in which filth and overcrowding operate, but certain it is, as experience has shown, that in sanitary hygienic conditions plague does not spread, and that in opposite conditions it may for a time spread like wildfire." *Manson, 1900.*

"The disease (plague) is intensely contagious, selecting usually the poorest of classes as its victims or those living under circumstances of overcrowding and without adequate ventilation or a proper food supply." *Notter, 1900.*

"The principal results of the excessive height of buildings in narrow streets are:—

"(1) The exclusion of light and air from the dwellings, and (2) the encouragement of excessive surface-crowding, and it is on these well-established grounds that the Sanitary Board has urged for the past three years the reduction of the present scale, irrespective of any statistics as to the present distribution of such diseases in the Colony of Hongkong.

"It is, I believe, an admitted fact that when bubonic plague was first introduced into this colony, it raged in the dirtiest and most overcrowded district of the city, namely Taiping-shan, which was in consequence demolished. Now that the disease has become endemic its incidence is governed by other factors, of which the social grade of the native residents in the several districts may possibly (as I have already suggested) be one, while dissemination of the disease by rats will probably be another."

Mr. May: "It has been proved, I believe, that the plague bacillus is rendered innocuous after exposure for 12 hours in a strong light, or 4 hours in the sun, and that it cannot live for more than 4 days if exposed to fresh air. It follows that the best natural prevention of plague is light and air, and that such is the case was demonstrated in 1894 when over 4,000 Chinese were removed from Taipingshan, which was yielding fifty cases a day at the time, to well-lit and airy houses at West Point (where they were closely watched) with the result that only ten cases of plague developed among them. This was in the first week in June in the height of the epidemic."

The PRESIDENT moved that the report contained in Dr. Clark's minute be forwarded to the Government.

Dr. BELL seconded, and the motion was carried.

REPLY FROM GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO THE EXCESSIVE CHINESE INFANT MORTALITY.

The following letter with enclosure from the Colonial Secretary, dated 17th July, was submitted:—"With reference to suggestions Nos 4 and 5 of the Medical Officer of Health forwarded under your covering letter of No. 100 of the 14th ult., I am directed to transmit to you for the consideration of the Sanitary Board the enclosed copy of a letter from Bishop Piazzoli.

(Enclosure).

Hongkong, 12th July, 1901.

Sir,—With reference to your letter No. 1,632 of the 9th inst., I beg to inform you that a register of all infants received at the Italian and French Convent is kept at the Convent, and such register is accessible to the officers of the Sanitary Board at any reasonable hour; but I must call your attention to the fact that the information received by the Sisters are few and of a very unreliable nature, as the Chinese very seldom tell the truth, especially when there is some interest in telling a story.

In regard to paragraph 2 of your letter, that all persons dying in the Convents should be removed to the public mortuary for a post-mortem examination unless a medical certificate be produced, I should like to suggest (1) that

the Sanitary Board be so good as to send a doctor every day to inspect the bodies of all persons dead in the Convent, and, if in some cases the post-mortem examination is thought necessary, the Sanitary Board may have the body removed to the public mortuary at their expense; (2) to let the Sisters do as before and advise them to report to the Sanitary Board every case doubtful and of a difficult diagnosis.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) L. M. PIZZOLI.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Brewin: "I do not see why special measures are necessary in the case of the Convents. No one has suggested that the Convents are in the habit of concealing cases of infectious disease. The opinion of the Sisters as to the cause of death is just as good as that of a sanitary inspector. Every doubtful case should be reported to the Board."

Dr. Clark: "It is not a case of concealment, but of want of knowledge."

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Dr. BELL, it was agreed to recommend the Government to sanction that the bodies of all children dying after admission to the Convents be sent to the public mortuary for post-mortem examination.

Mr. BREWIN voted against the proposal.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The report of the Sanitary Surveyor for the second quarter of 1901 was submitted. There were no minutes.

The reported was adopted.

PUBLIC LATRINE AT YAUMATI.

Dr. CLARK, pursuant to notice, moved: "That the Board beg to recommend that a public latrine of forty seats be erected on that site of Crown land which is situated at the corner of Kennedy Street and Market Street, Yaumati, to the east of Kennedy Street, and to the south of Market Street."

Mr. May minuted: "How many latrines have we asked for next year's estimate?"

The motion was agreed to.

PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS.

Mr. MAY, pursuant to notice moved: "That the Board appoint a sub-committee to revise the existing procedure for taking precautions against and dealing with an epidemic of plague."

The Secretary, in a minute attached, pointed out that on 17th May, 1901, the Medical Officer of Health submitted a report on the same subject, and that it had been considered by a committee of the Board.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dr. Clark and Messrs. May and Osborne were appointed to the sub-committee.

WILD DELL BUILDINGS.

These premises having been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, Dr. CLARK recommended that the order of 27th June requiring them to be closed be withdrawn.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. OSBORNE, the recommendation was given effect to.

CHEUNG SHA WAN PLAGUE CEMETERY.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the closing of the Plague Cemetery at Kennedy-town and the opening of a new one.

Mr. Brewin minuted: "I do not see why Cheung Sha Wan is to be preferred to Sandy Bay. I believe the neighbourhood will become populous very rapidly."

Dr. Clark minuted: "Has the Registrar-General seen this valley? If so, I don't think he would expect it to become populous very rapidly."

The PRESIDENT moved that the Plague Cemetery at Cheung Sha Wan be re-opened.

Dr. CLARK seconded, and the motion was carried.

Dr. BELL and Mr. Brewin opposed; Mr. Osborne did not vote.

RE-OPENING OF CHINESE THEATRES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the re-opening of the Chinese theatres.

The following minutes were appended:—
Lt.-Col. Hughes: "Re-open next week if the plague statistics continue favourable."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun: "I recommend re-opening at once."

Mr. E. Osborne: "End of July if no more plague."

Dr. Bell: "Wait till end of month."

Mr. Brewin: "Recommend re-opening at once. The number of cases in Victoria is, I believe, no greater than it was the first week in April. The lessee is probably losing \$1,200 a month. The week before the theatres were re-opened in 1899, the number of deaths in Victoria was twenty, last week it was twelve."

Mr. May: "End of month."

President: "End of month."

The PRESIDENT moved that the Board recommend the Government that these theatres be opened at the end of the present month.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the motion was carried.

MESSRS. BUTTERFIELD AND SWIRE'S PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Dr. BELL, a report by Inspector Robertson, Shauiwan, on the private hospital at Quarry Bay, was sent to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for their remarks.

THE PROPOSED PLAGUE HOSPITAL AT QUARRY BAY.

Further correspondence relative to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's proposed plague hospital at Quarry Bay was laid on the table.

The firm, in a letter dated 28th June, expressed surprise at the position taken up by the Board, inasmuch as Dr. Kwan's diploma and qualifications should be sufficient guarantee for the correctness of his certificates and their acceptance by the Board. They regretted that they were unable to accede to the request that European supervision should be provided by them. They had already gone to great expense in their desire to assist the authorities to combat the plague at Quarry Bay, and this very considerable outlay was one which they felt they should not be called upon to incur. They learned from Dr. Kwan that his certificates had been accepted on previous occasions when no European initialling was deemed necessary, and in view of this the condition which was now sought to be attached to acceptance of his professional services seemed hardly justifiable. This last statement is blue-pencilled "Untrue" by Dr. Clark.

On July 18, Messrs Butterfield & Swire again wrote to the Board. They enclosed a letter from Dr. Kwan, and said that the result of the Board's voting must be as unsatisfactory to the members as it was to themselves. They therefore suggested that the matter be referred to His Excellency the Governor for his decision.

Dr. Kwan's letter described the decision of the Sanitary Board, in refusing to recognise him as a medical practitioner qualified to take charge of the Hospital at Quarry Bay, as a great injustice, not so much to his professional standing as to the institution which every well-wisher of science hailed with delight as a harbinger of a new era in the Far East, and of which he had the honour to be one of the first graduates. In support of his qualifications Dr. Kwan offered a resumé of his past career and the posts he held. In 1887, when the College of Medicine for Chinese was inaugurated, he became one of the students of the first class. Having passed all the necessary requirements prescribed in the curriculum, he matriculated in the year 1893, and obtained a diploma signed by the members of the faculty, some of whom had been and now were members of the Sanitary Board. Immediately, he was called to take charge of the Nethermole Hospital as House-Surgeon. In 1894, when the plague first broke out—the terrible destruction it wrought was still fresh in their memories—he was sent to take charge of the Alice Memorial Branch Plague Hospital at Kennedy Town. He was there night and day throughout the whole time of the epidemic, and, strange to say, he did not receive even a word of recognition of his services during those terrible months, although a common Indian constable was rewarded with a plague medal. In 1896 he resigned his post in the Nethermole Hospital, having received an appointment from H. E. Liu Kung-yi, Viceroy of Liang Kiang, as surgeon-in-chief of all the Yangtze Forts under his jurisdiction. In this capacity he served the Chinese Government three years, giving entire satisfaction to his superior officers. In 1899, in deference to his father's wishes, he resigned his post and returned to Hongkong, where he had established himself as a local practitioner. In conclusion

he begged to express regret at having unwittingly been the cause of so much contention and dispute, and tendered his thanks to Messrs Butterfield & Swire for the efforts they were making in support of a cause in which not only himself but all the graduates of the College of Medicine for Chinese were involved.

The following minutes were appended:—

Lieut.-Col. Hughes. "The Board should adhere to its decision firmly, and should refuse to agree that the matter be referred to H. E. the Governor. There is no necessity for such a procedure. They should further refuse to be dictated to by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire."

Mr. Osborne: "Under what powers did the Board refuse Messrs. Butterfield & Swire's request? I think the majority of members in this matter consider the dignity of the Board more important than the welfare of the public."

Mr. Bell: "The Board should insist upon the firm providing an European medical man to supervise the diagnosis and disinfection. We cannot refer the matter to anyone, as we are responsible."

Mr. May: "This is an attempt to get behind the Board, which should be resolutely opposed."

On the motion of Dr. BELL, seconded by Mr. MAY, the Board decided to adhere to its former decision in the matter, and to approach the Government to confirm that decision.

APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF VERANDAH.

An application was read from Messrs. Palmer & Turner, architects and surveyors, for permission to erect verandahs at Nos. 22 to 24, Pokfulam Road. A plan was also submitted.

Dr. Clark minuted: "I see no reason for refusing the application."

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Dr. CLARK, the application was granted.

ANALYSIS OF WELL-WATER.

The results of the analysis of three samples of well-water showed that the water from a public well at Dock Street, Hunghom, and from a well situated at Hunghom West, was fit for potable purposes, but that it would be improved if extraneous matter could be kept out by improving the surroundings of the wells. The samples from a well situated at the back of the market, Hunghom, was found to be so tainted with impurities as to make the water unfit for potable purposes, and likely to prove injurious to health.

Dr. CLARK moved that the report of the Government Analyst, Mr. F. Brown, who made the analysis, be forwarded to the Government, as the wells were Government property.

The motion was agreed to.

MORTALITY STATISTICS FOR THE COLONY.

The mortality statistics for the Colony for the weeks ended 6th July and 13th July showed that for the former week the deaths were 25.6 per 1,000, as against 38.3 in the previous week, and 39.6 for the corresponding week of last year. For the latter week the figures were 26.9, as against 32.3 for the corresponding period last year.

PLANS OF URINALS.

Plans for two urinals were submitted and approved. One is to be in Ice House Lane and the other on the Praya near the present Canton wharf. The plan for a third at the Parade Ground has gone home to the War Office, the PRESIDENT intimated.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. OSBORNE gave notice that at the next meeting of the Board he would ask for the production, by the Medical Officer of Health or by the Secretary, of a statement showing what recommendations the Board and its officers have made during the past ten years, in respect to the following matters, and how far such recommendations have been carried out:—

1. Additional markets.
 2. Additional public latrines.
 3. Additional public urinals.
- This was all the business.

The list of murders and murderers who suffer the extreme penalty of the law for their crime is daily increasing in the Philippines, and has already reached gigantic proportions. In whatever else the Filipino is backward, it is not in taking life when his passion is roused and his heart yearns for vengeance. Few races also can equal him in the fiendish cruelty with which he revenges himself for some fancied or real wrong.

THE PLAGUE.

Tuesday.

During the 48 hours ending at noon on the 22nd inst. there were reported 7 fresh Chinese cases of plague and one European, and 8 deaths (Chinese).

The European case is that of Private D. Nelson, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who was admitted to Kennedytown Hospital on the 22nd inst. He developed the disease, we are informed, in No. 5 room at Murray Barracks, which has, of course, been overhauled and disinfected. This fresh case, occurring just when we were hoping to be able to congratulate ourselves on the disappearance of the disease at least among Europeans, is regrettable in the extreme.

Last week's figures were:—13 cases (8 in Victoria), 16 deaths. The record for the year stands now at:—1,579 cases (1,499 Chinese, 57 other Asiatics, 29 Europeans); 1,506 deaths (1,463 Chinese, 34 other Asiatics, 9 Europeans).

Wednesday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday only one fresh case of plague was reported, and one death (Chinese).

Private Nelson, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who was admitted to the Plague Hospital on Monday, died on the 23rd inst., and was buried at six o'clock at Happy Valley with military honours. The deceased was far gone when taken into the hospital, and never rallied. He was feverish for six days, it appears, before it was known what the nature of his illness was.

Mrs. Brownhill, it is stated, is in a very critical condition, and grave fears are entertained about her recovery.

Thursday.

During the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there were reported 6 fresh Chinese cases of plague and 7 deaths, of which 5 were Chinese and 2 European.

One of the two European deaths reported was that of Private Nelson, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, as we reported in yesterday's issue; the other was Mrs. Brownhill, who died on Tuesday at 11.55 p.m. The sad circumstances attending the death first of Captain Brownhill and now of Mrs. Brownhill are almost too well known to need repetition. On the eve of departing for home, they were stricken with the disease and taken to the Plague Hospital on the day previous to that on which they were to sail from Hongkong. The husband succumbed very quickly, but the news of his death was kept from Mrs. Brownhill until she was thought to be sufficiently recovered to bear the shock. The crisis in the unfortunate lady's illness, however, arrived on Sunday night, and from that time she gradually sank until her death. Mrs. Brownhill was buried by the side of her husband at Happy Valley.

Saturday.

We have now had two consecutive days without a plague case or death, the record of the 48 hours ending at noon on Friday being:—Cases, nil; deaths, nil.

THE "CANTON RIVER" RAISED.

At last the dredger *Canton River*, after more than eight months' sojourn under the waters of the harbour, into which she sank during the typhoon on the 10th November last, has been raised from the bottom, and provided that no typhoon visits Hongkong at this very moment it may reasonably be expected that she will be safely towed over to dock at Kowloon for the operations on her to be completed. It is probable that she will be sold at no very distant date.

The pumping operations recommenced at 7.30 a.m. on the 25th inst., and by 8 o'clock the dredger was beginning to move from the bottom. All proceeded very well, and only at one time was any anxiety felt. This was at about 8.30 a.m., when the *Canton River* suddenly made a heavy list to stern and there appeared for a brief while a possibility of her turning over as she did before. Now, however, the removal of her top-hamper has made a vast difference to the ease of manipulation, and so on the 25th inst. the vigorous working of the pumps in the right direction speedily got rid of all danger by righting the vessel, and operations proceeded without another hitch. At 9 o'clock the pumps gave out, by which time the *Canton River* had

the whole of her deck above the water-line. She was making no water, from which it may be inferred that there are no holes in her. She looked, moreover, in excellent condition, for all her eight months below the water. It now remains to tow her over to Kowloon, where hand-pumps will complete the work and remove the remaining water preparatory to her docking. It is to be noted that this time the *Canton River* did not come up bow first as in the previous attempts to raise her, but bodily—a fact due to the way in which she has been lightened before the final pumping.

Thursday's operations were carried out under the able directions of Mr. T. S. Morton, to whom great credit is due for accomplishing a task which has proved hitherto so baffling.

The *Canton River* was originally brought out from Paisley, where she was built by Messrs. Fleming & Ferguson, to the order of Messrs. Punchard, Lowther & Co., who were to use her for dredging operations in connection with the Naval Yard extension work. As is well known, she is a very powerful type of dredger, being built to receive within 15 or 20 minutes 150 tons into her hoppers, which had a total capacity of 750 tons. She is now the property partly of the Commercial Union Assurance Co., who have a lien of £23,000 on her, and partly of the underwriters in London, with whom she is insured for £12,000 and who are represented here by Messrs. Gilman & Co., of Queen's Road Central.

The dredger *Canton River* started on her voyage across the harbour about 3.30 p.m. on Friday, and was safely brought over to Kowloon.

THE SALARIES OF SUBORDINATE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

In its issue of Monday, the 22nd inst., our senior evening contemporary published an article dealing with the question of the salaries of subordinate Government officers in this colony. In the course of its criticism, after describing the circularising of the Departments as a "Gilbertian" method of settling the question of salaries, our contemporary went on to say that but for the fact that "the Colonial Secretary is a Scotsman and congenitally incapable of seeing and appreciating a joke (vide English authorities) there would be some amusing answers to the latest official conundrum." The Colonial Secretary, however, for all the fact of his nationality, is fully appreciative of the present joke. To start at the beginning, the Secretary of State for the Colonies made a suggestion to the Government here that it would perhaps be wise to have the salaries of officials in Hongkong placed on a sterling basis; the same suggestion was also made to the Government of the Straits Settlements. In February of last year a body called the Sterling Salaries Committee was appointed by the heads and assistant heads of the various Departments in Government service to consider the whole matter, and the result of the Committee's deliberations was the issuing of the circular referred to by our contemporary. That circular, which went round the Departments, was as follows:—

"Within one week from the 15th July, 1901, the Sterling Salaries Committee want a statement from each officer affected:—

- "(1) What sterling salary will you accept?
- "(2) Reasons for fixing salary at such a figure."

The object of the circular was simply to ascertain what each officer thought would be a fair equivalent in sterling of his salary, making allowances for any privileges he might lose as far as regards present rate of pay for leave and pension. Many of the officers now draw their leave pay at 4s. to the dollar and their pension allowance at 3s. 8d. Coming to the question of delay, our readers will remember that the Hon. R. M. Gray, at a meeting of the Legislative Council on 14th February this year, asked the following question, of which he had given notice—"I should like to know what, if any, reply has been received from the Secretary of State with regard to the recommendations of the Committee appointed to enquire into and report on the salaries of subordinate officers in the Civil Service of the colony?" In reply to this

question, the Colonial Secretary laid on the table a despatch dated 31st December, 1900, from the Secretary of State, acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Committee's report, and asking that a scheme be submitted containing a complete classification of the whole subordinate service, with salaries attached to grades and offices rather than to individual officers, and, in addition, with definite recommendations as to the systematisation of their allowances. The requests made in the despatch have been complied with, and until the final sanction of the Secretary of State to the proposals forwarded has been obtained, nothing further can be done.

DISCONTENT IN THE POLICE FORCE.

That discontent has for a long period existed in the rank and file of the Hongkong Police Force is a fact recognised amongst the officials, who apparently have either found the problem impossible of solution or have been able to discover no justifiable grievance. Several of the men, however, have at last taken the course, it seems, of tendering their resignations. Three have already resigned—Lance-Sergeant Reynolds and Constables Bond and Broomfield—and it is rumoured that others, including several acting-sergeants, contemplate taking a similar step. The grounds for their action appear to be these. Two agreements of widely different terms at present operate in the Police Force. By the first and older agreement, a man on enrolling binds himself to serve for fifteen years, at the termination of which period he may retire on pension. Every five years he is allowed nine months' leave of absence on half-pay, at, we are informed, four shillings to the dollar. The second agreement, which was drafted at a later period than the first, stipulates that before he is entitled to a pension a man must serve until he reaches the age of forty-five years, when he goes home on an allowance possibly no greater than that of the man who has served under the fifteen years' system. It is also stated (but this we were unable to verify) that when on leave he is allowed only two shillings to the dollar. As we have said, this statement was not borne out by other information; it is mentioned simply because the disparity alleged by some to exist in the two allowances to the dollar has been advanced as a *bona fide* grievance. Another complaint is that advancement in the Police Force is slow and promotion uncertain. In the latter connection this is asserted that those entitled to promotion have in many instances been superseded for no apparent reason. There are, however, always two sides to a question, and the official point of view may place the whole matter in a different light. One thing is certain, though, and this is that nowadays it is almost impossible to get men serving in any police force at home to come to the colony as they did when the force here was in the early days of its existence. This may be due to many causes, but the reason advanced by those who are in a position to know is that the conditions now existing here are responsible for the disinclination of trained men to come out from home to join the Hongkong Police Force. The result is that when vacancies occur they have simply to be filled as best they may. Under the existing Ordinance, a man may resign from the Police Force on his giving three months' notice and paying two months' salary for every unexpired year of his term of service. Rather than complete his engagement, one man earning a constable's salary has forfeited \$360, and in addition has to pay his passage home. This represents a considerable sum to one occupying such an office, and the fact that he is willing to sacrifice it would to an ordinary mind indicate that a real grievance exists somewhere. Captain Superintendent May, we understand, has already been approached on the subject, and pointed out that the men had signed an agreement and must carry out the terms of that agreement. On the other hand, however, the European part of the Police Force is not overmanned, and we certainly cannot afford to have it further depleted in strength if a rearrangement of working conditions will prevent it. — *Daily Press*, 24th July.

In our issue of Wednesday last we published an article on the discontent prevailing in the police force of this colony. While fully convinced at the time of its existence, we were not in a position to enter into precise details. Some, though not all, of the reasons have now transpired.

One is that the agreement which the men signed stated that they were entitled to light and fuel free. As a matter of fact, they receive the light, but have to purchase their coal for cooking purposes. Another is that the last batch of men, who signed to serve till their forty-fifth year of age, could receive money in lieu of boots, a promise which has turned out to be a fable. The men have to accept the boots issued to them as long as they fit in any sort of fashion, but never are given the option as promised in the agreement.

Still another reason is the present style of canteen management. The Captain Superintendent is the sole head and arbiter of the canteen and its fund, being only assisted in minor details by Inspector McNab, and none of the men or sergeants are permitted a voice in the management. Naturally the men resent this. They claim, as it is their hardly earned money that keeps the fund up, they ought to have some voice in the matter. In military canteens a mess committee is elected to manage, and monthly a meeting is held at which all are supposed to be present who are not prevented by duty. At such meetings a statement of accounts is given, and every man knows in what state the canteen finances are. Also all disposal of such funds for entertainments, etc., are made by vote. Nothing like that occurs with the police. As an example of what may happen it may be stated that some of the married men applied to Mr. May for \$10 a week to be paid for the use of a launch to take married people on bathing or picnic parties. The request was granted, and now \$4 a month is paid out of the fund to favour a few married men, without any consideration being shown to the bachelors, the heaviest contributors to the fund.

These are some at least of the grievances which combine to make true of Hongkong the familiar quotation that "the policeman's lot is not a happy one." — *Daily Press*, 27th July.

A DISASTROUS FIRE IN QUEEN VICTORIA STREET.

People living in the neighbourhood of No. 5 Police Station (Fire Brigade), were aroused from their slumbers about 2.45 a.m. on the 20th inst. by the clang of the fire-bell. Fire had broken out in a paper-shop at No. 7, Queen Victoria Street, and within a few minutes after the alarm was given the brigade was on the spot. Hoses were at once turned on, but in spite of the hard efforts made by both the Fire Brigade, under command of Deputy-Superintendent F. J. Badeley, and the police, under command of Inspector Kemp, Sergeants Garrod and Gourlay, No. 8 and then No. 6 also caught fire, and it was impossible to subdue the conflagration until the three houses were thoroughly gutted. The paper-shop where the fire broke out had fire-crackers in stock, the explosion of which made bystanders almost think themselves in the midst of a mimic battle. As soon as the fire was subdued, Sergts. Garrod and Gourlay entered the ruins of house No. 7, when on reaching the back staircase, a gruesome sight met their gaze. Six human beings lay huddled together at the top. All were more or less roasted. At the same time it was evident that death reached them through suffocation from heat and smoke before they suffered much from the burns. The victims were three males, aged seventeen, nine and one year of age respectively, and three females, aged 56, 36 and 12 years of age. We regret to report that P. C. Gordon, while actively engaged in assisting to put out the fire, had an attack of epilepsy, and falling in the midst of his work was somewhat cut about the face by falling timbers from the burning houses. He was taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where he is reported to be doing fairly well. It is rumoured that the Transatlantic and Hamburg Fire Insurance Co. is involved in this fire to the extent of \$4,000, in one policy, and another \$2,500, while the Pak On is responsible for \$2,500, and Commercial Union for about \$2,500.

SEA POWER IN THE FAR EAST.

The following letter by the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., appears in the June number of the *Navy League Journal*:

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters dated 12th December, 1900, and 18th January, 1901, and my Committee have to thank you for your very interesting comments on the present political situation, and for the measures which you have adopted to make public, through the Press, the necessity which exists for strengthening the British Squadron out in the Far East, and for seeing to the adequate armament and defence of this most important naval base.

You state in paragraph 4 of your letter of 12th November, 1900, that "If we are to hold, as we claim to do, the command of the sea, we ought to be in the necessary position of superiority wherever our flag flies," and I need hardly say that that view of yours is most fully endorsed by my Committee, who contend without fear of contradiction that that position of superiority has been completely lost in the Far East; and that if, as appears unfortunately to be admitted in the case, we cannot spare any more of our ships from the Channel and Mediterranean Squadrons for service in the Far East, it is necessary that a new Naval Defence Act should be passed at once laying down a continuous and definite and adequate programme for the construction of battleships and fast armoured cruisers.

It would appear that our Navy is distinctly drifting to leeward as compared with the combined fleets of France and Russia, and that the proportion of five effective modern battleships to three, which we ought admittedly to make sure of at all times in relation to those two Powers, has not been maintained. In the *National Review* for October last, Mr. McHardy pointed out that whereas our proportion of modern battleships built and building in 1889 was fifty-three against thirty-seven battleships belonging to France and Russia combined, our proportion of modern battleships built and building in 1900 is only fifty-one against the fifty battleships of the other two allied Powers.

When we contrast such a state of affairs with the magnificent patriotic efforts which Germany is now putting forth to increase her fighting strength at sea, it makes one think with sorrow that the recent grave indifferences of Lord Rosebery and others against our nation are true, and that we are wanting in that earnestness and thoroughness and public spirit which is necessary, if we are to retain our naval and commercial supremacy in an age of fierce competition. If we are deprived of the command of the sea neither our army and auxiliary forces at home, nor our loyal Australasian and Canadian troops in the Colonies, can avert disaster from the Empire, for the seas will then divide, instead of, as now, uniting the scattered forces of our race.

The Electors of Great Britain must be made by the Navy League to understand through the Press that, important as Army Reform is, the instant and substantial increase of the British Navy is infinitely more important, in fact a vital question, that is to say (to quote Tennyson's expression) that "the fleet of England is her all in all."—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

H. E. POLLOCK, Hon. Secretary,

Navy League, Hongkong Branch.

Hongkong, March 30, 1901.

According to the *Mercury*, Major Bauer, an officer of the Railway Brigade attached to the staff of Count Walderssee, intended to return to Germany through Manchuria and Siberia, but the Russians, who apparently did not wish to let him see all their cards, refused him passage. He therefore returned to Chafco and thence to Vladivostock. Colonel Powell had about the same experience, but disregarded the Russian prohibition and went ahead. It is reported from reliable sources that the Russians had a very lively turn with the British Colonel, but it is reported that it is incorrect, as stated in several English papers, that he was arrested as a spy. Colonel Powell has made no backward movement up to the present, and great interest is felt as to whether or no the Russians will allow a British officer to do what they refused to allow a German officer to do.

PEKING.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Peking, 4th July.

THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION is being gradually effected. The German section in the Chinese city was the first to be handed over, but the German "Prefect" still keeps open office, ordering the Chinese authorities to observe German regulations and to make no changes without his sanction. Next come the three British sections in the Chinese, Tartar, and Imperial cities. Capt. Schwyn, Police Commissioner in the Tartar city, becomes chief over all the sections. The Chinese are enjoined to observe all regulations established by the English, and to make no changes without conferring with the British commissioner. About the same time the large Japanese section was handed over. The Japanese officer in charge is requested by Prince Ching to retain oversight, and help in training the Chinese police. Already the Japanese have trained a special force. The Japanese regulations and management are preferred by Prince Ching and other Chinese, and their observance therefore needs no additional order. The French were the next to relinquish control, though enjoining the Chinese administrators to do nothing contrary to French methods. The German section in the Tartar city is still controlled by German officers, though a gradual transfer is being contemplated. The Chinese authorities may manage all cases of Chinese litigation, but in carrying out the death penalty the German Prefect must first approve.

Thus the Great Powers are

LETTING GO THEIR HOLD

with a feeling of necessity, but not with highest graciousness. Peking is drifting back into the old ways, and by August the 14th, it will be forgotten that Peking ever had a siege or a relief.

THE GOOD WORK OF THE FRENCH.

The French, on the departure of the German troops, will remain the predominant factor in this province, especially in the west and south, where many Catholic converts congregate and through which the Grand Trunk line runs. General Bailloud, one of the most efficient and popular commanders of the Allies, has made an agreement with the Governor of Shansi as to the way to maintain order and to guarantee safety to the missions. The French Legation and the French army have not been holding aloof from opportunities to help on all matters in which their countrymen are interested, or wherein French prestige may be enhanced. There may be an excess in claims for converts, but in the main arrangement of future relations the French deserve great credit. It would have gone hard with all missions, if left to the indifference, almost callousness, of British and American diplomacy.

RIVER CONSERVANCY.

Mr. Hewett is here as representative of business interests of Shanghai in the conservancy of the Huangpu, and has had his conference with the special committee from the Diplomatic Body.

Peking, 9th July.

BATTLE AND DEFEAT.

The Imperial troops consisting of eighteen lying, about 8,000 men, were defeated in battle at Poyehhsien in Paotingfu the day before yesterday by two thousand mounted Mahomedan rebels, and lost all their arms and ammunition. Li Hung-chang was very much cut up over this news, as the Generals of the troops were all Anhui men and his own appointees. He despatched one thousand of Yuan Shih-k'ai's foreign-drilled troops to the scene of the disaster at once, but even if the mounted men wait for them they can leave thereafter whenever the fracas gets too interesting for them.

A Manchu Prince is the authority for the statement that Prince Tuan is at the head of a large body of Mongol rebels and is contemplating a descent upon either Taiyuanfu or the capital. We hope he will come before the troops leave. He is said to be drinking heavily to keep his courage up.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Hsi Shou-peng and Lien Fang have been nominated to the throne by Prince Ching for

appointment as members of the new Wai Pu, or Foreign Office, and will very likely be appointed.—Shen Tung-ho has, under Li Hung-chang's instruction, given a contract to a British officer to convey the tribute rice from the south to Peking by sea at a cost of thirty thousand taels in excess of what Sir Robert Hart offered to deliver it for.—Mr. Shen has made Li some valuable presents and a tasty dish of spiced fish, which much pleased the G. O. M.'s appetite.—Mr. J. M. Allardye's English school has increased from seventy-five to one hundred and thirty scholars and there are still daily applications. The new French Barracks are by long odds the best new barracks erected. The French will be superbly housed.—The Legations have all encroached too much on the streets. Instead of widening them and making them into fine avenues as they could readily have done, they have left only narrow lanes. The French built their new Legation wall a number of feet further front, and Legation Street suffers in consequence.—On the fourth of July the American tug-of-war team defeated the British team in three successive tugs, in the good old ancient classical style.

A FINE SEND-OFF.

Captain Barrow, British police commissioner for the southern city, departed last week. The natives gave him a good send-off. They insisted on carrying him for miles in a chair and lined the line of march packed like sardines, their constant remark being "He is a good one."—The phrase "If the Court returns" of a few weeks since seems to be giving place to "When the Court returns."—It has been decided to have a public dinner at the Peking Club on the evening of August the 14th to commemorate the raising of the famous siege. All the participants in the siege will be invited, and the officers of the Allied Troops actually in the relief column who entered Peking on that day.—N.C. Daily News.

WUCHOW.

Wuchow, 8th July.

A FLOODED CITY.

Wuchow, the gate of Kwangsi, at the junction of the Cassia with the West River, has lately entered upon its fifth year as an open port. It has now put on its summer clothes in the nature of flooded streets, a large part of the business part of the city being now like Venice. The great West River, a miniature Yangtze, has risen 62 feet above mean low-water level, and is flowing by in a mighty stream a mile and more in width. The up-river steamers are much delayed, taking about two days from Canton. This rise of the river is within two feet of the great rise in 1897.

ON PAPER ONLY.

H.M.S. *Sandpiper* has been adding to her fame by having been up to Nanning, and has returned in safety. That city still remains as before, viz., an open port on paper only. I believe I am right in saying that individual members of the Imperial Maritime Customs here have been holding themselves in readiness for over two years to move on to Nanning, waiting for the word which never comes.

A CURIOUS MISTAKE.

One strange thing in connection with the *Sandpiper's* trip was told me by a missionary who has just been over the same route, viz., that almost everywhere she was called "The Roman Catholic gunboat (or steamer)" and was supposed to be French. When informed she was British, the news was apparently received with satisfaction. In this connection one would be almost bold to suggest that such a boat in inland waters should fly a secondary flag, with Chinese characters, showing the nationality.

IN NANNING

itself, it is reported that the Roman Catholics have bought a large area, in fact the whole of one street, paying almost any price asked, and also several acres outside the city wall. It is said this is to be their new headquarters.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS.

Wuchow shows some signs of development from a foreign point of view. The British Consular offices and prison stand at the foot of the Consular hill, on the opposite bank of the Cassia river to the city. These form a standing object lesson of solidity and—shall I say—

stupidity. Strongly built (though the foundations show signs of slipping) in a narrow gap between two hills on North and South, it possesses not a single window on the West, and hence can never have a through draught. On a sweltering day one is inclined to pity the occupants to be. On the opposite hill, within the city wall, the officials have built a small powder magazine. I wonder what will happen to the city when its turn comes to follow its predecessors.

MORE BUILDINGS.

The American Baptists, after years of work here, are building two dwelling-houses to the East of the city, on the West River, beyond Messrs. Jardine, Matheson's property. The Wesleyan Mission have also added to their buildings.

The Customs staff have started a club and have a small club house, which is a great convenience for all who have to live month in and month out on boats. The projected dwelling-houses seem as far off as ever.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance have a match on their hill, the next to the Consular hill, the forerunner of the Home they are about to erect. At present three new arrivals from America are inhabiting the coolest place in and out of Wuchow.

PRICES.

As in other parts, prices have a strong upward tendency, and especially now, as rice is dear, but by no means exorbitantly high.—N.C. Daily News.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of the 16th inst.:

A meeting of military commanders is shortly to be held under the presidency of General Voyron, to decide whether the Taku Forts shall actually be razed or not.

The new Peiho river police has been organised with 60 Chinese of a standard height of 5ft. 11in. The department has 8 junks with 6 Chinese police and 5 Italian sailors each, and two steam launches, the whole under the command of Captain Dente of the Italian navy.

Tientsin has had three furious storms of wind, rain, and hail in quick succession.

H.M.S. *Orlando* at Taku communicated easily the other day with another vessel 68 miles off by wireless telegraphy.

The native Christians who flocked into the French Settlement at Tientsin during the troubles are returning to the east of the river.

Respectable Chinese families are flocking into Peking from the vicinity to escape roving robbers.

Kidnapping is being carried on very remuneratively by the brigands round Shanhaikwan.

Admiral Bridge arrived at Taku on the 9th with General Creagh, and proceeded promptly to Peking.

The P. & T. Times doubts whether the dispatch of tribute rice to the north is a proof that the Court is returning; but Chinese so regard it.

The Imperial troops have had two defeats in Chihli.

Visitors to Tientsin who consider themselves above the law because they have no Consul at the port are reminded that the Provisional Government looks after them.

Tientsin is to have an electrical tramway from the Settlements to the city and round the native city, electric lighting in the native city, and a bridge over the Peiho opposite the railway station.

General Mei's regular troops, being entirely unprovided for, as usual, as great a curse to the villagers as the brigands they are sent to suppress.

The Allied Villagers have captured Chiehchow and are besieging Po-yei, in Chihli and near Paotingfu, having seized the magistrate in one district, and they captured eight carts of stores with 2,000 taels belonging to General Li. The leader is said to be a wealthy man named Chang. A large number of disbanded soldiers are joining the Lienchuang Hui.

On her next voyage home, the steamer *König Albert* will have as passengers H.E. Lieut.-General von Lessel, commanding the German Expeditionary Force in China, and the members of his staff.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE STRAITS GOVERNMENT AND IMMIGRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

26th July.

SIR,—Clause No. 33 of the projected Straits immigration laws, recently submitted to the Council, is something entirely novel in the way of protective legislation, and would certainly appear to set the pace for other nations; for not only does it provide for the absolute prohibition of Asiatic immigration between Singapore and other British ports under anything except the British flag, but immigration in foreign bottoms from foreign ports as well.

The Acting Governor, in moving the second reading of the bill remarked that the Americans prohibited trade between American coast ports in foreign ships; but he omitted to state that if the American Government were to pass an act with so wide a scope as this, the British flag would be in a bad way on the Atlantic and the lion would doubtless awake to the conviction that his tail was being badly jammed in the closed door. If the bill were modified to apply between Hongkong and the Straits only, the result would be that foreign ships would load their emigrants at Swatow or Amoy, Hongkong would lose the business, and the Straits gain nothing.

The "objects and reasons" advanced for the introduction of the bill are most decidedly "faked," and it is not surprising that Mr. Murray regretted that they were not stronger. They are three in number. The first relates to the lack of control of seaworthiness of foreign vessels, the second to accommodation for coolies, and the last to medical attendance. Mr. Burkinshaw, the only member of the Council who opposed the measure, suggested that it might be sufficient to have the coolies medically examined in Hongkong. As this gentlemen did not appear to be very well versed in the *modus operandi* at this port, it seems strange that neither the Acting Governor, the Attorney General, or the Protector of Chinese, on whose recommendations the bill was drawn, should take the trouble to inform him of the methods under which the business has been conducted from this port for years and years; namely that the emigration laws of Hongkong are enforced as rigidly against foreign as against British vessels; and that every emigrant ship from here is required to possess a Passenger Certificate and a local Emigration License as well; that the vessels are surveyed by the Government Marine Surveyor; the accommodation for coolies carefully measured; and all emigrants medically inspected by the Health Officer of the port. If he had been so minded he might have informed Mr. Burkinshaw that not a single coolie can be taken out of Hongkong in excess of the Emigration License, that they are all counted by the Boarding Officer and medically examined by the Health Officer, without whose certificate no emigrant ship can obtain a clearance. He also inspects the medical stores, and the Boarding Officer sees that the provisions conform to the dietary scale. A bond of a thousand pounds must be signed by the Captain, Agent and Broker for the proper treatment of the emigrants on the voyage, and any complaints from Singapore would instantly result in the punishment of the parties delinquent. Each and every emigrant is also carefully questioned by the Emigration Officer.

Furthermore, the Acting Governor, if he were at all familiar with the subject, might have informed the Honourable Member that very few if any ships except the mail steamers carry doctors, and that these mail steamers carry no emigrants, —neither the P. & O., the French, or German. The Governor says "The reasons why the clause has been introduced is this. We are in the neighbourhood of a very serious outbreak of plague. None who has read the Hongkong papers can help feeling thankful that we in this colony have been spared that dreadful scourge. We are endeavoring to save Singapore and Penang," etc., etc., etc.

If he did not know he should have known that foreign vessels are as carefully safeguarded

from carrying the plague as British, and subject to precisely the same regulations; and that so far as the real protection of emigrants is concerned, the port of embarkation must perforce be the only place where any efficient protection can possibly be applied. How is it possible to protect the coolie from the dangers and discomforts incident to the voyage after the ship arrives in Singapore and the voyage is over. If clause 33 should be sanctioned in England, which is very unlikely, no good could possibly come of it, for in any case it could scarcely be made to cover any port except Hongkong; and then the coolies would enter from outside ports just the same. That the Acting Governor has some real reasons may be conceded, but they seem to be carefully suppressed, and all that we are allowed to gather is that it suits the present policy of the Straits Government to close the door.

"Do not press the question of the cattle trade at present," said the Governor, "we haven't such plausible objects and reasons to put forward." Wait until our little difficulties in South Africa are settled and then it will be time enough to think of shutting out foreign flags straight through from Hongkong to the Cape, including the Straits, India, and Aden; and then we will show our neighbours what a protective policy means. Mr. Kruger ran his head against our open door and now has reason to regret it. Let foreigners say it was a war of conquest pure and simple, if they like, and that our principles are in our pockets. We have the proud consciousness that we undertook it for the benefit of humanity at large; all nations to be treated alike—anyhow for a time. It is not for weak nations like the Transvaal Republic to have advanced ideas regarding protection.—I am, Sir, yours etc.

OPEN DOOR.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LTD.

An extraordinary meeting of the preference shareholders in the above company was held at noon on the 20th inst. for the purpose of receiving and discussing the proposals of the liquidator, Mr. M. Bennecke, for dealing with the company's assets. Besides Mr. Bennecke there were present Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, E. Georg, K. Edulji, C. E. Osmund, J. Remedios, R. K. Wibel, and Chan Kin-hoi.

On the motion of Mr. GEORG, seconded by Mr. EDULJI, Mr. Wilcox was elected to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN introduced Mr. Bennecke, who made the following statement:—The assets of the company amount to \$12,500. There is an outstanding call on ordinary shares of \$1, which on 140,000 shares will amount to \$140,000. Now, the question is—will the preference shareholders be satisfied to divide amongst them the \$12,500 cash, which would give a dividend of about 23 or 25 cents per share, or do they wish to make the outstanding call of \$1 on the ordinary shares? In my opinion it will take two or three years to get the money in. How much you would get I cannot say, but it is my firm belief that in the end there would be nothing at all to divide. I leave it to you to decide which course you will take.

The CHAIRMAN—You have heard what the liquidator has said. The assets are not very large, it is true, but they would not be very much helped by making a call, because it would be difficult to collect the call, as certain of the shareholders are not easy to get at, and it would be very difficult also to collect the call from any that could be got at. In addition to that, there is another consideration. Most of the preference shareholders are also ordinary shareholders, and it would be like passing the money from one pocket into another; a good deal of it, however, would leak. The money that the ordinary shareholders who are also preference shareholders would have to pay would probably undergo considerable reduction before it came back to their other pocket. Consequently, I should not recommend our making the call. I think the best plan will be to accept the liquidator's proposal to offer a dividend out of the balance remaining. That would have to be done, I believe, by an appeal for the general consent of the other shareholders, which could be got by circular.

Mr. GEORG—I quite agree with what Mr. Wilcox says. The legal expenses of collecting the call would amount to a considerable sum, and we might not get anything.

Mr. WIBEL—Will there be any delay about the payment of the dividend?

The CHAIRMAN—There will be very little delay, no longer than is absolutely necessary to get the usual formalities through. Of course, that takes a little time. There would have to be a further meeting, at which the liquidator would give his final statement, but first of all it would be necessary to get the written consent of the preference shareholders, which would be done in this way: A form would be sent out to them which they would be asked to sign; that should present no difficulties. I think that some one of the members should propose a resolution to the effect that the liquidator's proposal to accept a dividend of the available assets and not make a call should be accepted.

Mr. GEORG—I am quite willing to propose that, in lieu of making a call on ordinary shares, preference shareholders accept the proposal of the liquidator to divide the available assets amongst them.

Mr. WIBEL seconded, and the proposal was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—It will be necessary to have a confirmatory meeting after this.

Mr. GEORG—Another meeting?

The CHAIRMAN—I think so. A confirmatory meeting is necessary, and preference shareholders will perhaps be induced to turn out in greater force. We might have the meeting a month hence.

Mr. WIBEL—Is it necessary for every holder of preference shares to sign, or would a majority do?

The CHAIRMAN—The liquidator has been advised by the solicitors for the company that it is necessary for everyone to sign, otherwise a preference shareholder might get up and say he had not signed. However, I should think that a majority would be sufficient, and it would be very easy to get a majority.

This was all the business.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 22nd July.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION (SPECIAL SESSIONS).

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED EXTENSIVE FRAUDS.

Li Ying, an ex-lakong, was charged on no less than fourteen counts with obtaining money by false pretences and with uttering and publishing a forged and counterfeited writing with intent to defraud.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. J. F. Reece), represented the prisoner, and for the Crown Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown solicitor, instructed the Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Acting Attorney-General.

Mr. Francis—I must ask your Lordship for an adjournment, as the case is an extremely complicated one. Information was only filed on Saturday, and I was not instructed till Saturday afternoon. It is therefore impossible for me to do justice to my client, and I ask your Lordship to adjourn the case for at least a fortnight.

His Lordship—I suppose you don't desire an adjournment, Mr. Pollock?

Mr. Pollock—No, my Lord. However, I am informed that the Chinese official who is to give evidence in the case (whom I mentioned to your Lordship before) can come back here in a fortnight's time, and as I am aware that Mr. Francis has had very short notice, I have no objection to the adjournment asked for. Perhaps your Lordship will kindly fix to-morrow fortnight?

His Lordship—I think you are entitled to an adjournment, Mr. Francis. The case is certainly a complicated one. I have found it so.

Mr. Francis—May I take the liberty of suggesting, for the consideration of the Attorney-General, that this is a proper case for a special jury?

Mr. Pollock—I think there would be some difficulty in arranging for that. This is a Special Sessions, and a jury has already been summoned for it.

His Lordship—You can easily get over that difficulty by closing these Sessions and discharging the jury. If you like I will grant you another Sessions for the 6th of August.

Mr. Francis—There is no difficulty in the way, my Lord. It is simply a matter of discharging one jury and summoning another.

His Lordship—You might consider the point meanwhile, Mr. Pollock, and let me know your decision.

Mr. Pollock—My inclination is against summoning special jurors, my Lord. As you perhaps are aware, they are hardworked in this colony.

His Lordship—Yes, they have discovered that fact lately, I know.

Mr. Pollock—However, I will consider the matter, my Lord.

The case stands adjourned until Tuesday, 6th August, at ten o'clock.

Wednesday, 24th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

UTTERING A FORGED WILL.

Lo Yew Hoi, alias Tai Li, was charged with uttering a forged will. He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. E. Robinson, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. Grist). Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Harston), prosecuted.

The jury was made up as follows:—Messrs. B. J. Barlow, G. F. William, O. M. D. Bell, A. Bain, C. Partington, H. Haynes and C. Pemberton.

Mr. Francis, who stated the case at considerable length, said there recently died at Canton a man named Lo Tsun, a bird-fancier who rented premises here, in Cochrane Street and at 116, Queen's Road. He was in possession of household property in Hongkong (some of it his own and some held in lease by him to other persons) to the value of \$80,000 or over. After marrying his first wife, by whom he had a daughter, Lo Tsun married again, according to Chinese custom. For the last two or three years of his life he was very ill from dropsy, and, with his family, removed from Hongkong to Canton. He continued seriously ill, so that for the greater part of the time he was confined to the house, and was unable to attend to any business. Lo Tsun died on 4th November, 1900, in Canton, and on 18th December, in the same year, his younger brother, Lo Fook by name, produced a will in Chinese purporting to be the will of his elder brother, Lo Tsun, and filed a petition in the Supreme Court in probate jurisdiction for the granting of the probate of that will to him. On the same day, 18th December, there came before the officer of the Supreme Court here two men, one of them the prisoner, who made a declaration that the Chinese document then shown to them was the last will and testament of Lo Tsun, that they had seen him affix his finger-mark to that will, and that they themselves had signed as witnesses to the will in the presence of Lo Tsun and in the presence of each other. The widow of the deceased asserted that the will was a forgery, and in vindication of her own rights made application in the Supreme Court for administration to be granted her of the estate and effects of her deceased husband in Hongkong. Ordinary proceedings were taken as between two parties, and finally a writ was issued and a suit commenced by Lo Fook for the purpose of establishing the *bona-fides* of the will he had produced. The date of the issuing of that writ was 6th February, 1901, and proceedings were taken in the Supreme Court here to test the validity or otherwise of the will. If Lo Fook succeeded in establishing the will, under its terms the whole of the property of the deceased man would be vested in Lo Fook, who would have the administration and control of it. Possibly even the interpretation might have been put on the will that Lo Fook's son would be the person on whom the whole of the property would ultim-

ately devolve. If, on the other hand, the will was not proved to the satisfaction of the Court, letters of administration of the property would be vested in the widow, who would in the absence of a will under English law, take one-third, the other two-thirds probably going to the daughter; the estate and effects in Hongkong, whatever the amount, to be their own absolute property. The brother, Lo Fook, would get nothing. In this state of affairs, about 17th April last Lo Fook and the prisoner interviewed the widow in Hongkong, and made certain proposals to her, with a view to the settlement of the difference between them without resort to further litigation. The proposal was that the widow should adopt the son of Lo Fook as her son, and thereby enable him to be a person entitled to a share in the interest of the property. Of course, explained Mr. Francis, that was the Chinese idea, not necessarily the English. In addition to adopting this son, the widow was to pay Lo Fook \$500 in satisfaction of the expenses he had incurred so far, in return for all of which Lo Fook would consent to her taking out letters of administration of the estate and effects of her deceased husband. The widow agreed to the proposal, and it was arranged between them that the parties should go to the office of Mr. Ewens, who was the solicitor for the widow, with the view, presumably, of having the matter re-discussed and, if finally agreed upon, reduced to writing and given practical effect to. On 18th April they called at the office of Mr. Ewens, but Mr. Sin Tak Fan, the principal Chinese clerk, was absent, and nothing was done. The prisoner and Lo Fook's son returned on the following day, and saw in the office, during the forenoon, Mr. Sin Tak Fan. There were also present the widow of the deceased, her married daughter, and the dead man's concubine, also a man describing himself as a broker. In the course of conversation between the prisoner, the widow, and Mr. Sin Tak Fan in connection with the proposals for a settlement, the prisoner stated to Mr. Sin Tak Fan, in the hearing of the others, that he was the Lo Yew Hoi whose name appeared as one of the witnesses to the will, and that he was going to the Supreme Court to swear he had witnessed the execution of the will. He stated to Sin Tak Fan that he had in fact signed the will as a witness, and that the will was actually written out and made a considerable time after the death of Lo Tsun. The result of that communication was that Lo Yew Hoi was charged at the Police Court, and had been committed for trial. In effect, the charge against him was that he had feloniously uttered, disposed of, and put off a certain false will purporting to be the last will and testament of Lo Tsun, with intent to defraud. That the prisoner had so uttered, disposed of, and put off that will as a true will it would be the task of the prosecution to prove to the reasonable satisfaction of the jury. The records of the Probate Court would be produced, besides the declaration of the prisoner that he was a witness to the will, and the evidence would also be taken of the officer of the Court who took the declaration. There was no direct proof that the will had been forged, and the dead man, of course, could not be produced to give evidence that the will was not his will. The evidence in support of that portion of the charge was to a large extent necessarily circumstantial, but not the less strong for that reason. The evidence for the prosecution would be, first, that Lo Tsun was confined to his bed for a period long anterior to the date on which the will purported to be executed by him. Secondly, there would be the evidence of the widow, of the married daughter, and of the concubine that during that time—each speaking of her own knowledge—Lo Tsun did not execute or sign any will, and that neither Lo Fook nor the prisoner, nor the other person who professed to have attested the will, ever saw Lo Tsun, or ever were in his house in Canton. The will was dated 1st January, 1900, nearly twelve months before Lo Tsun's death. The only signature to it was the deceased's finger-mark, or what purported to be his finger-mark. It would be shown clearly that at that time, the 1st of January, 1900, the testator was not in a state of health which rendered it necessary for him to

make a finger mark; he was then able to write and to sign his name. The prosecution would put before the jury an agreement entered into by the deceased on that very day, by which he made arrangements with a Chinese gentleman here in Hongkong to act jointly with him in taking over the lease of a certain house. On that day the deceased was capable of writing and signing his name, and he did sign the documents necessary to the agreement. It was true that just before his death he had to use a finger-mark in signing documents regarding the sale of certain portions of his property, but it was only just before his death, and that was where the forger made the mistake that had caused him to be put on his trial.

The examination and cross-examination of witnesses occupied the entire day, and at four o'clock the Court adjourned until next day, when the charge against Lo Yew Hoi was dismissed.

Friday, 26th July.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

COLLINS v. GIBSON.

The hearing of this action for \$2,000 damages for breach of contract was resumed. Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. Robinson, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. Hursthouse) for the defendant.

A. F. Ramsay, chief engineer of the *s.s. Haimun*, for whose evidence the hearing had been adjourned *sine die*, was called. He stated, in reply to Mr. Robinson, that Gibson had no pecuniary interest in the firm of A. F. Ramsay & Co., and never had from the very beginning. Further, he had at no time received remuneration for services rendered.

When Mr. Francis proceeded to cross-examine, witness showed an inclination to fence with the questions, whereon Mr. Francis told him that he would not make his case any better by his quibbling. The cross-examination then proceeded.

Witness said he first commenced to deal in bicycles about 1899. He opened a banking account in the same year.

Mr. Francis—What month?

Witness—I don't know unless I refer to my bank-book.

Mr. Francis—Well, refer to your bank-book, then.

Witness (after turning up the pass-book)—On 13th February, 1899.

Mr. Francis—Is that your first banking account in Hongkong?

Witness—With the Chartered Bank, yes.

Mr. Francis—I am not asking about the Chartered Bank, Mr. Ramsay. Listen to what I say and answer the question, please. Is that your first banking account?

Witness—No, my first banking account was thirteen years ago.

Mr. Francis—When you first commenced to buy and sell bicycles, did you have a banking account?

Witness—I had no banking account then.

Mr. Francis—On what date did you first open any place of business in Hongkong?

Witness—I started first in Wanchai.

Mr. Francis—When? I didn't ask you where.

Witness—In June or July, 1899.

Mr. Francis—Did you start that business, or did somebody else for you?

Witness—My wife and myself started it.

Mr. Francis—I am not asking that. Was it you or your wife?

Witness—My wife started it. I hadn't got the time.

Mr. Francis—Under what name did you first start business?

Witness—A. F. Ramsay & Company.

Mr. Francis—Will you tell me why you had your bill-heads printed "A. F. Ramsay" simply?

Witness—I had a contract to supply the timber for the building of a Japanese Consulate, and I got these bills printed and used them for the purpose of collecting my accounts.

Mr. Francis—In what year was it you had this contract?

Witness (after a pause)—1888 or 1889.
 Mr. Francis—In 1888 or 1898?
 Witness—Yes.
 Mr. Francis—Don't you know what I am asking? Was it in 1888 or 1898?
 Witness—I can't remember.
 Mr. Francis—Just try to remember, then. What year was it?
 Witness—In 1898 or 1899, I can't say which.
 Mr. Francis—You said 1888 just now.
 Witness—That was a mistake.
 Continuing, witness said he had borrowed money from Mr. Mallory—\$1,000. He first had his bill-heads printed "A. F. Ramsay and Company" in 1899, the year he commenced business in the corridor of the Hongkong Hotel.
 Mr. Francis—What month did you commence business in the corridor of the hotel? 1899 is too wide.
 Witness—I can't tell you exactly.
 Mr. Francis—What do you mean, sir? You know perfectly well. You knew the business was being carried on in your name.
 Witness—It was in September, I think.
 Mr. Francis—You are quite certain you had no business in the corridor of the Hongkong Hotel before that?
 Witness—I had not.
 Mr. Francis—Who suggested taking the stall in the hotel?
 Witness—No one suggested taking the stall. I only know that Mr. Gibson had a stall, and he asked me to take it over when he went home.
 Mr. Francis—Then Mr. Gibson suggested it? When was that?
 Witness—In September or October, I don't know which.
 Mr. Francis—What year?
 Witness—In 1899.
 Mr. Francis—How long had you then been carrying on the business in Wanchai?
 Witness—I had only started, I think.
 Mr. Francis—When did you start in Wanchai?
 Witness—March or April. I can't exactly tell you when it was.
 Mr. Francis—Did you keep an account of what you bought and sold?
 Witness—No: I just bought and sold.
 Mr. Francis—And pocketed the money? What is the date of the opening of that account (indicating witness's pass-book)?
 Witness—February 13th, 1899.
 Mr. Francis—Was it opened in consequence of your starting this business of bicycle repairer and seller?
 Witness—Yes.
 Mr. Francis—On what date does it begin, and when does it end?
 Witness (examining pass-book)—It begins on February 13th, 1899, and is carried down to April 16th, 1891.
 Mr. Francis—There is an entry under February 16th—"Cheque, \$1,000."
 Witness—Yes, that's Mr. Mallory's.
 Mr. Francis—Do you remember when you first used bill-heads describing yourself as carrying on business in the Hongkong Hotel corridor?
 Witness—My wife looked after the business. I had nothing to do with it all.
 In answer to further questions, witness said he had three or four hundred dollars of his own when he started business, and he borrowed money from Mr. Mallory and another man. Witness did not keep any books whatever in 1899; his wife did all that, and he knew nothing about them.
 Mr. Francis was further cross-examining the witness, when Mr. Robinson interrupted on a question of relevancy.
 Mr. Francis—I wish my friend would not interrupt me. He is simply prompting the witness.
 Mr. Ramsay said he started business with a capital of \$2,000.
 Mr. Francis—Where did that come from?
 Witness—There was Mr. Mallory's cheque for \$1,000, and the money I had myself.
 Mr. Francis—You said that amounted to three or four hundred dollars. That makes \$1,400. Where did the remainder of the \$2,000 come from?
 Witness—There was a few hundred dollars in stock.
 Mr. Francis—You said \$300 for that. What about the rest?
 * Witness—It's put down in a round sum of \$2,000.

Mr. Mallory, witness said, had advanced him no money beyond the \$1,000, nor had he witnessed any document or agreement of any description. McKinley joined witness as manager in June, 1899, having been employed by him on the way down from Tamsui. The entire conduct of the business was in the hands of Mrs. Ramsay. Witness took nothing to do with it, and he only visited the shop occasionally to have a look round and to tell his wife what he thought it was necessary to get.

This concluded the cross-examination.

His Lordship—I think I had better adjourn this case *sine die*.

Mr. Francis—Unless your Lordship can fix a day for arguments.

This was impossible, his Lordship explained, on account of other engagements.

Mr. Robinson intimated that in addition to Dr. Hartigan, who was to be called to give evidence, he proposed to recall Mr. Haynes, manager of the Hongkong Hotel, who had written to say that he made a mistake in his evidence.

The Court then adjourned *sine die*.

BREACH OF ARMS ORDINANCE.

Judgement in the case of Messrs. Siemssen & Co., for storing thirty-three cases of arms in godown No. 27 at Kowloon, in contravention of Section 12, of the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance of 1900, was given by Mr. Hazeland on the 23rd inst. as follows:—

"The defendant was summoned before me under Section 12 of the 'Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1900,' for that he did unlawfully without the special written permission of the Captain-Superintendent of the Police keep and store arms (to wit thirty-three cases of rifles) in No. 27 godown of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon, such place not being registered by him for that purpose.

"Section 12 of the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance reads as follows:—'No arms or ammunition shall, without the special written permission of the Captain-Superintendent of Police be kept or stored by any importer or dealer in or vendor of arms or ammunition in any place or places other than in the place or places registered by him for that purpose.'

"In the Arms and Ammunition (amendment) Ordinance, 1900, No. 35 of 1900—there is the following definition of the expression 'importer':—'The expression "importer" shall include every person whether a commission agent or otherwise to whom or to whose order arms or ammunition landed in this colony are consigned.'

"It was proved in evidence that the thirty-three cases of rifles, the subject-matter of the charge, were landed from the steamship *Eva* on the 16th day of July, 1900, and were stored in godown No. 27 of the Godown Company. The steamship *Eva* was chartered by the Hamburg-American line which is a share company, and Messrs. Siemssen & Co. were on the said 16th day of July, 1900, the agents of the said Hamburg-American line. They have since ceased to act as such agents. It was further proved that the said thirty-three cases of rifles were consigned to Tientsin and that the Godown Company were keeping the said thirty-three cases pending instructions for transshipment. No godown warrant had been issued for the cases nor had any rent been charged. The reason given by the Godown Superintendent of the Godown Company why no rent was charged was because the thirty-three cases were not storage cargo. It was further proved in evidence that Messrs. Siemssen & Co. were not the consignees of the arms, and also it was not known who the consignees were. It was also proved that Messrs. Siemssen & Co. were licensed dealers and vendors of arms and also that godown No. 27 of the Godown Company was not a licensed godown under the Arms Ordinance.

"The question for my decision is whether under these circumstances the defendant company can be held to be 'importers' within the meaning of the Ordinance. They were clearly not 'dealers' nor 'vendors' with respect to these thirty-three cases.

"I am of opinion that Messrs. Siemssen & Co., who were mere agents of a steamship company looking after the landing and transship-

ment of goods, cannot be considered as regards these thirty-three cases of arms in the light of 'importers.' In the statutory definition given in the amending Ordinance the word 'importer' is restricted to the case of a person to whose order arms or ammunition are consigned. It was abundantly proved that the arms, the subject matter of the charge, were not consigned to Messrs. Siemssen & Co. My finding is therefore for the defendant, and I order this summons to be dismissed."

CIVILIAN CLUB CONCERT.

A most successful concert was given by the Civilian Club on the 20th inst. The entrance to and the outer facade of the Club were very prettily decorated with Chinese lanterns. Conspicuous was the transparent "Welcome" over the entrance. The stage too was a very pretty picture with its palms and lanterns.

The programme opened with a pianoforte trio by the Misses Leykum, King and Chun-yut, ably rendered and well received. The same ladies opened the second part with a similar production, which found equal favour. Mr. Musso failing to appear, Mr. Haggard sang a song, followed by Miss Leykum who sang "Unless" to the evident satisfaction of the audience. Mr. Graça also failing to make his appearance with a violin solo as promised, Mr. Seely delighted the audience with a banjo solo, and was obliged to give an encore. The same occurred on his appearance in the second part of the programme. Mr. Leykum gave the popular song "In Old Madrid," while Mr. Ward amused his admirers with "I didn't know it," and a short recitation as an encore. In the second part he again obliged with a recitation entitled "My First Recitation." The duet from *Il Trovatore* by Mr. and Miss Leykum was a great success. Mr. Viggers, the inimitable, convulsed his audience with "It's fine," and was encored, to which he cordially responded: in the latter portion of the programme he gave "Do be careful" and "Tell me, Mother Darling," old but still popular—for all that, he would do well to learn a new song now and again. Mr. Haggard's "Courier of the King" was ably rendered. Mr. Leykum's "Tell her I love her so," was much appreciated. In conclusion tribute must be given to Miss Chunyut for her able accompanying.

GENERAL CHAFFEE'S REPORT.

General Chaffee's report on the campaign in China contains the following special reports made by United States officers upon the allied troops:—

Major Craighill says:—"The information gained of the Russians is meagre and unsatisfactory. No reply has been made by them to your request for a statement of the location or character of their force in North China in connection with the relief expedition." Major Craighill speaks of the excellent discipline of the Russians, but says that their rations were of the simplest. They were, he says, industrious foragers. They did not use tents, but lived in huts of native matting. Major Craighill also reports upon the French, particularly regarding their arms, supplies, &c., but his comments, like nearly all others, are omitted from publication, being represented by rows of asterisks.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dickman reports upon the Germans. He says that the officers are well educated and that the troops are under good discipline. Colonel Dickman also reports upon the British. He speaks of their painstaking detail in the mobilisation and despatch of the expeditionary force, and says that the discipline of the troops is excellent. He also speaks highly of the Italian regiments.

Major Muir describes the Japanese in detail. He says that they are actuated by intense patriotism, and that if Japan can keep her armament and equipment on a par with her soldiers, she will be a most valuable ally and a most formidable enemy.

Surgeon-Major Banister reports on the medical departments of the allied armies. He mentions that the British and Indian troops are treated in separate hospitals, and commends the Japanese and German medical departments.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST JULY, 1901.

LEVEL.		1900.	1901.
		Above overflow. Below overflow.	
Tytam	0 ft. 7 in.	27 ft. 11 in.	
Pokfulam	1 ft. 3 in.	10 ft. 7 in.	
Wongnaicheong	0 ft. 3 in.	44 ft. 10 in.	
STORAGE GALLONS.		1900.	1901.
Tytam		389,840,000	189,580,000
Pokfulam		68,740,000	43,040,000
Wongnaicheong		30,782,000	23,000

Total..... 489,282,000 232,643,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

	1900.	1901.
Consumption ...	97,401,000	111,119,000 gallons
Estimated population ...	206,500	212,500
Consumption per head per day ...	15.7	17.4 gallons

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE.

	1900.	1901.
Consumption ...	9,190,300	11,911,000 gallons
Estimated population	28,200	29,400
Consumption per head per day ...	10.8	13.5 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

ARE WE AT THE END?

This is the question asked by *Ostasiatische Lloyd* of the 12th inst., in a most pessimistic editorial article. Our contemporary after recalling its opinion published about three months ago, goes on to say that we know just as little now as to the real situation. In fact none but the different diplomatic officials know really what takes place in North China, and there is every reason to doubt if even they have any certainty. Of course there is no lack of assurances that things will straighten themselves out and regain their normal state, but that one must reckon with the habitual slowness of the Chinese, and therefore not expect the quick settlement of a matter in which so many important points are involved; everything will eventually be settled amicably and with mutual goodwill.

In Europe and America, our contemporary continues, people listen with great satisfaction to such farcical peace assurances. The wish that everything may be as it is represented is father to the thought. In Germany the government is effusively thanked for having at last broken away from China and withdrawn the troops. "As it is in our native land, so it seems to be in the homes of all the other Allies. But we, who are a few thousand miles nearer, and can feel the influence of the conditions prevailing in North China, cannot understand these ebullitions of joy."

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* then proceeds to refer to the alarming reports which have reached Shanghai from the North about a recrudescence of the troubles of last year and the powerlessness of the Chinese authorities against rebellion, and continues:—"The fact is that the secret conspiracies in North China have not been rooted out, and that fresh risings are taking place all over the North. In our opinion there are only two causes possible. Either the anti-foreign movements are still fostered by the Chinese Government, or the Chinese authorities have no power to suppress them. Accepting for the nonce that the latter is the cause, in this case the Allies must first consider whether after having left sufficient troops to guard the lives and interests of their countrymen settled at Tientsin, Peking, Paotingfu and other places, it is necessary or advisable to intervene further. . . . We think, taking everything into consideration that it is, and that the withdrawal of troops before definite results have been obtained will be a cause of grave danger to the Powers interested. The Allies ought to prosecute their

interference without consideration and with such sternness as will bring palpable results. How that is to be done, Great Britain's gunboat policy toward China in the past will show. But, in particular, no consideration must be shown to an incapable and corrupt government. The farce of keeping the Court at Hsianfu must be put an end to at once."

Our contemporary continues at great length in the same strain, advocating stern measures and no consideration to either the rebels or the government of China, especially should it be proved that the government is still fostering these anti-foreign outbreaks. A sure sign that the Court favours the rebels is deduced from the fact that Prince Pu-chün has left Hsianfu and joined his father, Prince Tuan. The writer says it is most improbable that the Empress Dowager was ignorant of the heir-apparent's departure. He is absolutely convinced that the friendliest of relations exist between Prince Tuan and the Empress Dowager, and thinks Tuan is only waiting for a sign from Hsianfu again to attack the foreign devils. The whole article is thoroughly pessimistic in tone, and from the writer's point of view little or no hope exists of the integrity of China.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS IN 1900.

The annual report on the Straits Settlements for 1900, bearing the signature of Mr. Kynnersley as Acting Colonial Secretary, is now published. It shows that the revenue for 1900 amounted to \$5,386,927, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—Singapore \$3,244,431, Penang \$1,736,137, and Malacca \$406,366. There was an increase of \$186,901 as compared with the revenue for 1899.

The expenditure was \$6,037,684, as compared with \$5,060,523 in 1899 and \$4,587,366 in 1898. The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1900, was \$2,053,134 as compared with \$2,693,065 on the same date in 1899. The Colony has no debt.

British dollars to the value of \$21,571,488 were imported by the local Banks alone, as compared with \$29,349,725 in 1899. Other dollars to the value of \$3,988,750 were imported by the Banks. The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to \$1,684,149, and their expenditure, including a sum of \$13,260 expended on Loan Works in Singapore, to \$1,737,962.

COMMERCE.

Trade with countries having a gold standard increased by 17 per cent. with silver countries by 5½ per cent., but included in the former class are places under Dutch rule where silver dollars are for all purposes the only medium of exchange. Freight rates are still controlled by the Shipping Conference and during the year frequent alterations of rates have taken place. New York tin importers pay 15/- a ton compared with 27/6 paid by the Liverpool consignee—a distinct advantage to the American Tin-plate maker over his Welsh rivals. Meanwhile it is reported that Macassar and Java are receiving cargo formerly sent to Singapore. The growing influence of Germany as an overseas carrying power in these waters is more marked than ever, and this result is largely due to the tactics of the Shipping Conference who, not content with ousting tramp steamers from these Seas, now notify that "Shippers are warned that shipments by sailer may be prohibited (except to Marseilles) to all Conference supporters." In connection with this prohibition claim it may be noted that 13 sailing vessels cleared from Singapore with cargoes in 1900, of which 2 only were for Marseilles.

The value of Imports of merchandise increased by over 33½ million dollars of over 13½%, the total amounting to nearly 279.9/10 million dollars or £28½ million sterling.

The value of exports of merchandise exported from the Colony increased by 23½ million dollars or 11 per cent., the total export trade in 1900 being nearly 240 million dollars or £24½ million sterling. Tin exports valued over 61 million dollars, an increase of nearly 5 million, due to an increased output combined with an increased average price.

Tin exports recorded 48,000 tons, an increase of about 3,000 or 6 per cent., although the anticipation was general that a considerable

advance would take place. The local average price declared was \$74.90 per picul, an increase of nearly \$2 on the 1899 average price. To the United Kingdom nearly 26,000 tons were sent, an increase of over 8,000 tons, and to the United States of America nearly 14,000 tons, a decrease of 5,500 tons.

Coal imports are the heaviest on record having increased by 123,000 tons. Japan coal has considerably increased its average price and shows an increase of 162,000 tons over the previous year's figures. Cardiff coal imported decreased in quantity by 15,000 tons. Australian coal imported decreased by 20,000 tons and Borneo coal by 19,000; while Bangal coal showed the same as in 1899, viz., 75,000 tons.

The enormous expansion in the Sumatra petroleum industry is worthy of note. No less than a quantity equal to over 1 1/5 million cases of 65 lbs. each was imported, representing two-thirds of the whole supply. Dutch Borneo for the first time figures in the returns as a supplier of this oil, having sent 132,000 cases. American and Russian oils both declined and Burma sent only 52,000 cases—less than half the previous year's supply.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 14,469,405 as compared with 13,187,010 in 1899. The Light dues amounted to \$158,572.

Four hundred and twelve new vessels aggregating 9,487 tons were built in Singapore during the year.

GENERAL.

The population of the Colony which was 512,342 by the Census of 1891 is now estimated to be 617,595. During the year 1900 there were registered 14,814 births, of which 7,700 were male and 7,114 female children.

Speaking generally it may be said that there are many signs of the increasing prosperity of the Colony as a whole, intimately connected as it is with the welfare of the Federated Malay States. The towns of Singapore and George Town, Penang, continue to extend. Immigration from China and India shows satisfactory increase. The value of town property has enormously increased. The letting of the Excise Farms for the next triennial period at such a greatly enhanced rate, notwithstanding the high price of opium, may be taken as an index of the prosperity of the place. Concurrently with a general increase in trade and business the cost of living has advanced enormously. House rent both in Singapore and Penang has risen greatly while the price of labour and building materials deters many from investing their capital in building operations. The increased output and high price of tin in the Federated Malay States, the bulk of which finds its way to the smelting works in the Colony, have largely contributed to the wealth of the population, especially the many of whom have made fortunes out of tin and invest a large proportion of their gains in the Colony.

TRADE OF SINGAPORE.

The Annual Report on the Straits Settlements for 1900 contains the following remarks on the trade outlook of the Colony:—

The tonnage of German shipping in these waters has enormously increased of late and the Germans have principally benefited from the action of the Shipping Conference, which by arbitrarily raising freights has tended to drive trade to other neighbouring ports. Produce, for instance, is now shipped direct from Macassar which formerly found its way to Singapore. Of late years trade with the Philippines has declined, copra, coffee and other produce being now shipped direct to Europe or America. There is still a considerable import of hides. It is impossible to say at present what effect the transfer of these islands from Spanish to American rule will have on the trade of this Colony. From a Bangkok paper it appears that whereas formerly 80 per cent. of the shipping that entered that port was British, now Germany has the lead. Of the 440 steamers that entered the port in 1900, 44 per cent. were under the German flag and 38 per cent. under the British. Of the total value of cargoes from foreign countries, 58 per cent. came by German vessels, and 34 per cent. by British. Of the outward cargoes to foreign countries, 54 per cent. went in German, and 34 per cent. in British bottoms.

It is of the utmost importance that, in view of the increasing competition for the carrying trade in these waters, the Government should endeavour to increase the facilities of its ports and take every means in its power to foster trade. The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company has, by a large expenditure of capital, provided wharves and docks which have, until recent years, proved sufficient for the requirements of the Port; but it has become a matter for serious consideration whether the time has not come for the formation of the Harbour Trust. The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company has secured a virtual monopoly of the wharves and docks at Singapore, and there is a danger lest the imposition of increased tariff charges for the immediate benefit of shareholders may tend to direct shipping to foreign ports. When the Steamer Pier at Penang is completed, it is intended that a Harbour Board shall be vested with the management of the wharves and goods landing sheds.

Of late years considerable attention has been paid in England to the important question of supplying information for British Merchants at home as to the state of the markets and the openings for commercial enterprise in the Colonies and elsewhere. The Commercial Institute Branch of the Board of Trade, which was opened in 1899, should be of great assistance in this matter. The aims of this Intelligence have recently been brought under the notice of the Chambers of Commerce in this Colony, and it is to be hoped that these bodies will co-operate in carrying out these objects in the interests of British Trade. It must be borne in mind, however, that these Chambers—foreign firms being largely represented—and also that the Straits Merchants are for the most part middlemen acting as Agents for Foreign as well as British houses. It can hardly be expected that foreigners will be disposed to assist in ousting their own manufactures from the market. It is therefore incumbent on the Government to use every means in its power to collect and place at the disposal of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade the fullest and latest information as to the conditions of the local markets, the openings for new ventures, and the different classes of goods for which there is a demand. With this object it is contemplated to charge a Government Officer, who is in a position to obtain trustworthy information in commercial matters, with the duty of receiving and answering enquiries addressed to him officially by the Commercial Intelligence branch or unofficially by merchants and others who may seek advice direct.

HONGKONG.

Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., Officer Commanding the Troops, has been appointed a Member of the Executive and Legislative Council during the absence on leave of H. E. Major-General Gascoigne.

The departure of the T. K. K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, which is on the San Francisco run, has been postponed to on or about the 4th prox, owing to unforeseen repairs being required. She will not call at Shanghai.

The Clinical Report on Malaria as seen in the Government Civil Hospital during the half year of 1901, by Dr. J. Bell, Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, and Lieut. Stewart, I.M.S., Acting Assistant Superintendent, is published in the *Gazette*.

The German second-class cruiser *Illis*, (Captain Lans), which arrived in the harbour on Saturday from the North, took an active part; it will be remembered, in the bombardment of the Taku forts, when the heroic Captain Lans was severely wounded. The *Illis* is going on to Canton.

Considerable amusement was caused to pedestrians passing the City Hall Library and Museum on the 22nd inst. The stuffed animals and birds for some purpose or other were placed outside, and in an incredibly short time a throng of Chinese were standing—but at a very respectful distance—and gazing at the samples of stuffed fauna with almost awe depicted on their countenances. And though curiosity compelled them to stand and gaze, not one of them apparently dared to approach nearer for a closer inspection.

Apart from plague last week the only case of communicable disease reported in the colony was one of enteric fever in Victoria, which unfortunately proved fatal.

Among the arrivals by the *Hongkong Maru* was the Rev. E. J. Hardy, M.A., the new Chaplain to the Forces in Hongkong, in succession to the Rev. G. R. Vallings.

Mr. James Henderson, foreman shipwright at the Kowloon Docks, left for England on the 20th inst. by the P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, having completed a five years' engagement. On the preceding night a social meeting was held in the reading-room at the Docks, when Mr. W. C. Jack, superintendent engineer, on behalf of the staff, presented Mr. Henderson with a gold watch, suitably inscribed.

We are informed by the General Managers of Oliver's Freehold Mines, Limited, that, subject to the details being satisfactorily arranged, the Company's Agents in Sydney have been authorised to accept a proposal from Mr. J. Whear Roberts to take the "Eureka Mine" on tribute for one year; the monies received by the Company in the shape of royalties to be applied to prospecting and development work at the lower levels. Mr. Roberts's last report on the Mine, containing the proposition referred to, may be seen by shareholders at the offices of the Company, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central.

The steamer *Loongsang* (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.), which arrived in the harbour on the 22nd inst. from Manila, had on board one hundred tons of cargo—eighty tons of pig lead and twenty tons of hides and wool—salved from the Japanese steamer *Futami Maru* wrecked in the Straits of Mendora. The sunken vessel's cargo was bought by Mr. Chan Hewan, secretary of the Chai On Marine Insurance Company, of this colony, who sent down by the *Loongsang* a month ago about forty divers to salvage the cargo. The work has been prosecuted with great energy, and that by the *Loongsang* on the 22nd was the first of what is confidently expected to be a series of profitable consignments.

The death returns for the month of June show that there were 51 deaths in the European and foreign community (42 civilians, 8 army, 1 navy) and 952 in the Chinese community. Plague accounted for 572 victims, including 20 European and foreign civilians, 105 of the Chinese plague cases were among the Kowloon land population, 69 in No. 4 district, 54 in No. 5, 52 in No. 6, 51 in No. 9, 49 in No. 7, and 41 in No. 2, 93 deaths were from chest affections and 38 from malaria. The average death-rates in the principal registration districts were as follows:—British and Foreign civil community 54 per 1,000 per annum (the same as May); Chinese community, Victoria, Land 54.1, Boat 33.1; Chinese, whole Colony, Land 43.6, Boat 30.6, Land and Boat 41.9; whole civil community 42.3.

On the 25th inst. last was the occasion of a festive gathering at the R.N. Canteen, consisting of a dinner and smoking concert given by the members of the Rifle Shooting Club of H.M.S. *Dido*. Sergt.-Major Leeson, R.M.L.I., of the *Dido*, officiated as chairman at the dinner, to which thirty-five sat down. The smoking concert started at 8.30 p.m., Mr. Trenouth, Ship's Corpl., very kindly taking the part of pianist. During the evening the following obliged with various selections:—Messrs Pollecut, Petre, Hills, Cree, Fowler, Leeson, Atkins, Gallon, Graley, Trenouth and Wallis. The great success of the evening was undoubtedly a duet by Messrs. Trenouth and Wallis, whose rendering of "Larboard Watch" was deservedly encored. On behalf of the guests, Mr. Fowler proposed the health of the members of the Shooting Club of H.M.S. *Dido*, all the guests present joining in the well-known tune of "For they are jolly good fellows." Sergt.-Major Leeson suitably responded. Mr. Scott then gave a few remarks on the subject of rifle-shooting, pointing out the great importance which should be attached to this practice, to which Sergt.-Instr. Croes, R.M.L.I., responded; and a very enjoyable evening closed at midnight—"God Save the King" being sung by all present. The arrangements throughout the evening both at dinner and during the concert left nothing to be desired, thanks to the untiring efforts of the manager of the R. N. Canteen.

Following the account which appeared in the Press regarding the discontent in the police force, Captain Superintendent May has issued strict orders that reporters in search of information are not to be allowed beyond the bar of the charge-room, but are to be kept in front of it, in line, presumably, with the prisoners. In issuing this order, Captain Superintendent May seems to be animated by a feeling that does him little credit.

Mr. Elias Hyem Joseph, of the firm formerly known as Jordan and Joseph, brokers and commission agents, died suddenly on the inst. morning at his residence, No 13, Seymour Terrace. Deceased had been for many years with Messrs. David Sassoon, Sons and Co., whose employ he left to enter into partnership with the late Mr. Paul Jordan, in a brokerage and commission agency business under the style of Jordan and Joseph. The late Mr. Joseph during his lengthy business career in this colony had made hosts of friends, who all sincerely sympathise with his widow in her bereavement.

Armourer-Sergeant Williams, Army Ordinance Corps (attached to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers), was buried at Happy Valley Cemetery on Friday afternoon with military honours. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was borne on a gun-carriage, and literally hidden by wreaths—many others for which no place could be found were carried in rickshas. The wreaths were sent by the officers, staff and non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and of the other corps and detachments in the garrison, as well as by sympathising civilian friends of the deceased, who was very much liked and respected. He contracted fever three or four days ago, and was admitted to hospital, where he died on Friday morning. The funeral was a most impressive one, and very largely attended, there being present, in addition to military and naval contingents, a great many of the public, who, however, were not admitted to the cemetery. A particularly touching part of the ceremony was the singing of the hymn "Days and moments quickly flying." Armourer-Sergeant Williams leaves a widow and four children, to whom the sincerest sympathy is extended. Doubtless that sympathy will take a practical form.

An action of a most practical kind was taken on Friday afternoon by His Honour T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Puisne Judge, to decide a claim in a summary case. It seems that during the typhoon in November last the embankment protecting certain paddy-fields skirting Ching-Wan Bay was considerably damaged. The three owners of the paddy-fields joined together and agreed to have the embankment repaired and to divide the cost between them in proportion to the extent of their respective lots. This plan was carried into effect, but when it came to settling up one of the paddy-field owners, Yung Kwok Shui by name, refused to pay his share of \$57.40 on two grounds—first, because he was not a party to the agreement, and secondly, because his land was in no way bounded or protected by the embankment. He was thereupon sued by the other two, and as the only way of determining the defendant's liability, His Honour decided to go over to Ching-Wan and inspect the ground personally. Accordingly, in the afternoon, accompanied by several officials of the Supreme Court he went over to Ching-Wan in a steam-launch. In addition to going over the ground, His Honour examined one or two of the village "elders," and as a result decided in favour of the plaintiffs, with costs.

On the 20th inst. the British transports *Uganda* and *Sumatra* arrived from Taku, and the *Hatching* from Weihaiwei; the hospital-ship *Carthage* left for Taku, and the surveying-ship *Waterwitch* for Borneo.

The transports *Hatching* and *Sumatra*, with native troops from the North, left the harbour on the 22nd inst. for Calcutta.

On the 23rd inst. the British transport *Chingta* arrived from Madras. The German gunboat *Illis* left for Canton.

H.M. cruiser *Isis* arrived here on the 24th inst. from Kobe. The transport *Canning* arrived from Calcutta.

The British transports *Glenogle* and *Nevasa* arrived on Friday from Taku on their way south. The British transports *Canning* and *Chingta* left for Shanghai and Taku respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Siamese Royal Decree on Quarantine, forwarded by the Acting British Consul-General at Bangkok, is published in the *Gazette*.

The Siamese Royal yacht *Maha Chakreri*, with their Majesties on board, and accompanied by the gunboats *Sugrib* and *Deti*, left Singapore at daylight on the 17th inst. for Bangkok.

A post office has been opened by the German authorities at Kaumi, the present terminus of the Shantung railway. It is also rumoured that German post-offices are to be opened at Canton, Swatow and Amoy.

The *Mercury* in a leading article advocates the establishment in Shanghai of a Society for the Prevention of Brutality to the Chinese. A similar society seems also to be wanted in Tientsin.

Owing to the South Gate at High Island Barrier, Blenheim Passage, having been carried away by a collision, mariners in the Canton district are notified that the green light is now shown from the masthead of a junk moored as near as possible in the same position as the former light.

Mr. F. G. Figg, First Assistant, Hongkong Observatory, reports as follows:—The timeball at Kowloon Point is out of order and cannot be dropped. A new ball, now under construction, will be ready in the course of a few days. Chronometers may, in the meantime, be compared at the Observatory, if desired.

The Perry monument at Kurihamo, near Uraga, Japan, was unveiled on the 14th inst., in the presence of Baron Kaneko, President of the Beiyu Kiokai, under whose auspices the monument has been erected, Colonel Buck, U.S. Minister to Tokyo, General Kodama, Minister for War, Admiral Rogers, Mr. Sufu, Governor of Kanagawa Ken, Rear-Admiral Beardsley, etc.

Referring to the recently resurrected discussion of a scheme for a sea-canal through the Isthmus of Kra, the *Singapore Free Press* remarks, it is enough to say that many years ago the whole question was examined on the spot by a commission of two officers from India and the late Capt. A. J. Loftus, Hydrographer to the King of Siam. The pamphlet written by Capt. Loftus, of which we possess a copy, makes it clear that both as to the penetration of the hills and still more as to the preparation of a deep-water access on both sides, the scheme is quite impracticable. Even the approach to that coast in the S. W. monsoon would be full of dangers to all deep-draught mail steamers.

L'Echo de Chine notes the arrival at Shanghai of M. Bons d'Anty, French Consul at Chungking, and praises the courage and tact he displayed in the troubled times last year, remaining at his post when his English colleague went down to Ichang. The *N.-C. Daily News* comments on this as follows:—"Tact" is hardly the word which the English colleague, Mr. Michie Fraser, would apply to it. According to him, M. Bons d'Anty sent all his archives and other things on board the *Pioneer* and made Mr. Fraser believe that he was coming too, and only at the last moment changed his mind. The archives, etc., were taken down to Ichang and sent back in the *Suihsiang*, in which they went to the bottom of the river.

An *Asahi* telegram, dated Tokyo, 10th July, says:—About 2,000 Koreans, who live in the district where the Seoul station of the Seoul-Fusan Railway is to be, recently sent a protest to the Mayor of Seoul against the removal of their dwellings. The Mayor referred the matter to the Korean Railway Department; but the latter is unable to do anything in the matter as the place has already been granted to the Japanese company. The site of the Fusan station, which has been handed over to the company, has also given rise to a dispute. The Korean War Department authorities raised an objection recently on the ground that the place was intended as a site for barracks. The Korean authorities at Fusan who transferred the property are reported to be in an awkward fix, their own higher authorities pressing them on one side and the Japanese company on the other. It is, however, reported that the company will be able to start work as arranged if the Japanese Minister to Seoul and the directors of the company take up a firm attitude in the matter.

The Philippines Commission has completed the drafting of the Charter for the city of Manila, and it is now in the hands of the translators. It will be between a fortnight and a month before the new Charter will come in force.

It is stated from the North that the 6th Burma Regiment is to be stationed at Tongshan from about the middle of next month, while on the vacation of the West Village by this regiment, the Hongkong Regiment will take up its abode there, the officers occupying the Taotai's House in Taku Road as their quarters and mess.

The Marshal of the U. S. Consulate at Tientsin arrived at Shanghai on the 18th inst. having in his charge three Americans who had been convicted and sentenced to four years' imprisonment for having looted a pawnshop in the interior. The prisoners will undergo their sentence at the U. S. Consular gaol at Shanghai.

Labour organisations in America are already signing petitions for the re-enactment of the Chinese Exclusion Law, which expires on the 5th May next. Mr. Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labour, says: "We are not only in favour of extending the Chinese Exclusion Law so as to make it unlimited in time, but also to make it effective against all the Oriental races." The "open door" is intended only to open one way, comments the *Kobe Chronicle*.

At the end of this month, a party of telegraph men from the Singapore Depot will leave for Direction Island, which is one of the Cocos-Keeling Group, taking with them a number of Chinese carpenters, servants, etc. On the arrival of the party, quarters will be erected and preparations made for the reception of the new All-British Cable, running via the Cape, Mauritius, and Direction Island to Australia. Direction Island is one of the many islands in the group, and is composed entirely of coral running to a uniform height of about twenty feet above the level of the ocean. There is nothing on the island but coconuts, which are forwarded to Batavia and there sold.

Anti-friar demonstrations are again taking place in the Philippines. Augustinian and Dominican monks have certainly a lively time of it, according to the *Manila Times*, which says:—News comes from the north that the people of Calisao in Pangasinan, practically mobbed two Dominican friars and the native curé on June 29, so that they had to take refuge in the convent. The monks had come to Calisao on the occasion of the fiesta of San Pedro-San Pablo as the guests of the curé. The populace hailed their presence with hoots and a rain of bad fruit and eggs, jeering at the curé's threats of excommunication, and to climax their demonstration played the "Star Spangled Banner" and flourished the American flag before the convent. In Cebu an Augustinian monk was hissed from the pulpit, when he tried to address a congregation, and later a delegation went to the convent and expressed a popular desire that the order might leave the islands.

Dr. Goto, Head of the Civil Government of Formosa, speaking through the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, denounces as altogether false the statements recently made in our evening contemporary, the *China Mail*, to the discredit of the Formosan Administration. He declares that no discrimination of any kind has been made against foreigners in Formosa. They have been treated exactly as Japanese are treated, and if any have found the situation intolerable, the fault does not lie with the Japanese. The *Japan Mail* commenting on this statement says:—The fact seems to be that prior to the Japanese occupation of Formosa foreigners enjoyed a degree of liberty which some converted into licence. These persons naturally found that the restrictions which grew up under the rule of Japan were disagreeably irksome, and it is from such discontented individuals that adverse criticisms occasionally emanate. All complaints penned by foreigners find ready access to the columns of the local press in the Far East, and as the complainants generally have the field to themselves, they succeed in establishing a plausible case. It may be taken for granted that the Japanese have committed some administrative blunders in Formosa, but as to their impartiality in the treatment of their own nationals and foreigners, no experienced person can entertain any doubt.

The French general Bailloud is going to make a short trip to the Wut'ai-shan, a mountain famous for its bracing atmosphere, in Shansi. He has just about started and will make the journey in a private capacity but with the full cognisance of the Chinese officials who will receive him en route. A Buddhist from Chengtingfu will pioneer the party.

Mr. Ueno, Japanese Consul at Amoy, has stated in a report to the Foreign Department, that the plague is very bad there and the daily average of deaths from bubonic disease is 40 to 50 while in Kulangsu the number is from 4 to 5. Until recently no Japanese have been infected by the plague, but three or four naturalised Chinese for Formosa died this year. One Japanese subject succumbed to the disease recently. There is nothing to warrant a belief that the plague will be stamped out soon.

The party of missionaries who have gone to Taiyuanfu to settle the Protestant claims, etc., has been well received there. Great preparations were made for their reception by the Governor, Tsén Caun-hsuen, who is determined to adopt any measures towards a good understanding that may be advisable. The missionaries in question are Drs. Atwood, Edwards, and Messrs. Duncan, Hoste, Orr-Ewing, Taylor and Tjader, with a Roman priest, and Major Pereira, of the Intelligence Branch of the British Army. They left Peking on the 22nd of June.

The first prize competition of the Amoy Rifle Club, at 200 and 300 yards was concluded on the 7th inst. The weather was all that could be desired, wind and light favourable, still very low scores were made, especially at 300 yards, and far from corresponding with the shooting done at the same ranges during the practice put in by the team. The following was the result:—

	200 yards.	300 yards.	Total.
C. A. Swanstrom ...	29	28	57
W. E. Keay ...	24	19	43
J. McArthur ...	25	15	40
P. A. Barlow ...	26	11	37
W. Kruse ...	19	12	31
Dr. O'Neill ...	16	Retired	
A. Cumming ...	12		

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 13th July:—The weather having become very summerlike as regards heat, several ladies of the community with their families have this week moved up to Kuliang and more will follow in a few days.—The rice harvest has commenced this week in the large plain at the foot of the Kushan range. In this locality the crop is reported to be indifferently good.—Last Monday night a fire broke out in the city close to the yamen of the Provincial Judge, and was not got under before 30 houses had been consumed. To add to the disaster four men, unable to escape, lost their lives.—The processions to drive away sickness among the natives this year are said to be unprecedentedly large, many thousands joining in them. Each night this week they have perambulated a different route. To-night, starting from Nantai, they go to the city. Great numbers of well-to-do natives join in them, and there is a serious earnestness about the whole function that is remarkable.

Owing to the disturbances in the North and also to want of funds, the *N.-C. Daily News* reports, the Provincial Boards in charge of river-conservancy in Shantung and Honan have been compelled to stop all work on the embankments of the Yellow River needed to guard against the summer and autumn freshets from the mountains every year. During ordinary years the Central Government provides several million taels each to Honan and Shantung for river-conservancy work, and large staffs of officials and about 20,000 coolies obtain their livelihood in the two provinces occupied with this work. The stoppage of all work on the river means the cutting off of a regular means of livelihood from a large body of the inhabitants of Honan and Shantung. Famine and death now stare these poor people in the face, and news has been received that the ranks of the discontented of Chihli have been considerably augmented by bands of refugees from Honan and Shantung. This, our contemporary concludes, will doubtless be seized upon as a further objection against the Court's returning to Peking at present.

The Acting State Surgeon, Perak, writes as follows:—"Attention is being paid to the fact that arsenic may be the cause of the neuritis in beri-beri. Dr. Connolly, District Surgeon, Batu Gajah, writes in his annual report 'up to the present, however, a chemical analysis, not of a profound character it is true, has failed to find arsenic in beri-beri patients.' In support of the arsenic theory, I would point out that 95 per cent. of beri-beri cases treated are Chinese, and quite 9 per cent. are miners by occupation; when we know that arsenic in combination with other metals is common in the soil where these Chinese have to stand for hours while searching for tin, we may regard the possibility of arsenic as a cause for beri-beri as being something more than problematic.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 26th July.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th July.—No demands have come forward and prices are declining. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.60 to \$8.65	per cwt.
do. " 2, White.....	8.05 to 8.10	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.55 to 5.60	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.40 to 5.45	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.50 to 8.55	"
do. " 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.05	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.45 to 5.50	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.30 to 5.35	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.90 to 12.95	"
Shekloong "	11.85 to 11.90	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th July.—The upward tendency continues, the market being very brisk. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, Good quality	3.45 to 3.50
" Long	3.60 to 3.65
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.45 to 2.50
" Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per Imp. German Mail steamer *Kiautschon*, sailed on the 11th July. For Aden:—2 cases silk piecings. For Smyrna:—50 bales galan-gal. For Port Said:—15 cases sundries. For Suez:—100 boxes cassia. For Naples:—9 cases sundries. For Trieste:—200 boxes cassia. For Odessa:—200 boxes cassia. For Trieste and/or Hamburg and/or Bremen:—250 boxes tea. For Genoa:—123 bales raw silk, 53 bales waste silk, 17 boxes Chinaware, 10 cases essential oil. For New York:—70 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—200 rolls matting, 72 bales rattan-core, 10 bales bambootape. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg and/or London:—20 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam:—210 rolls matting, 59 cases Chinaware, 4 cases blackwoodware, 4 cases copperware. For Rotterdam:—7 boxes Chinaware, 3 cases cigars. For Rotterdam and/or Hamburg:—6 bales tobacco, 1 case tobacco. For Bremerhaven:—14 boxes blackwoodware, 13 boxes Chinaware, 2 boxes copperware. For London:—50 boxes bristles, 10 bales raw silk, 7 pkgs. private effects. For London and/or Hamburg:—500 bales cassia. For Oporto:—13 cases Chinaware. For Bremen:—147 rolls matting. For Hamburg:—199 half-chests tea, 101 bales cines, 111 rolls matting, 20 cases bristles, 19 cases sundries, 15 cases blackwoodware, 12 boxes Chinaware, 10 cases vermilion, 3 boxes feathers, 1 case silk. For Hamburg and/or Copenhagen:—300 boxes cassia. For Hamburg and/or Bremen:—250 boxes tea. For Copenhagen:—550 cases cassia.

Per steamer *Salazie*, sailed on the 15th July. For Marseilles:—52 bales raw silk, 12 cases silk, 325 pkgs. tea, 5 cases essential oil, 1 case curios, 1 case watches. For Lyons:—224 bales raw silk. For Havre:—38 pkgs. tea, 20 cases paper. For Milan:—100 bales waste silk. For London:—40 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Indrani*, sailed on the 15th July. For New York:—2,709 boxes cassia liquere, 20 boxes human hair, 3,750 pkgs. fire crackers, 130 pkgs. canes, 81 pkgs. rattanware, 75 pkgs. split bamboo, 300 cks. nut oil, 70 cks. wood oil, 10 pkgs. sundries.

Per steamer *Prometheus*, sailed on the 14th July. For London:—350 half-chests tea from Amoy (particulars unknown), 70 boxes tea from Amoy (particulars unknown), 442 boxes (particulars unknown), 11,834 boxes scented caper=248,514 lbs., 673 boxes congou=14,133 lbs., 475 bales waste silk, 1 bale carpets, 236 cases Chinaware, 8 cases bambooware, 22 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases curios, 20 cases p. l. fans, 1 case lacquerware, 1 case copperware, 1 case copper gongs, 3 cases silverware, 2 cases silks, 2 pkgs. silks, 983 pkgs. crackers, 3 pkgs. marine clothing, 22 pkgs. sundries. For London opt. Hamburg:—8 bales canes. For London opt. Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—25 bales waste silk. For Glasgow:—1 case books.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th July.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 2800 bales No. 10 at \$83 to \$91, 1,250 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$91, 900 bales No. 16 at \$95 to \$101, 1,750 bales No. 20 at \$99 to \$109. White Shirtings: 500 pieces M. S. at \$4.75, 700 pieces M. S. at \$4.75. Grey Shirtings: 500 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Stags at \$4.50, 250 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Stags at \$4.50. Long Ells: 150 pieces Green at \$6.75.

METAL.—Quicksilver: 100 flasks at \$169.50 to arrive, 100 flasks at \$ 68.50 to arrive, 50 flasks at \$168.50 to arrive, 50 flasks at \$171.

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$73.00 to \$110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.	2.70 to 3.30
9 to 10 lbs.	3.35 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.35 to 2.60
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.90
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50
Fine.....	5.10 to 7.40
Book-folds.....	4.10 to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.72 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	1.85 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 ")	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ")	2.70 to 3.35
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.75 to 3.30
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.60 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.55 to 5.00
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BROCADES—Dyed

Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk

0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet.....

Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40	to	10.00
Assorted.....	6.50	to	10.10

Camlets—Assorted.....

12.50 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }

8.00 to 20.00

Assorted.....

8.50 to 10.00

Orleans—Plain

per pair

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.

4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.30 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.20 to —
Swedish Bar	6.25 to —
Small Round Rod	4.75 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.25 to —
Wire 15/25	8.25 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.25 to —
Australian	8.10 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —
Composition Nails.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	43.00 to —
Tin.....	69.50 to —

Tin-Plates

7.00 to —

Steel ½ to ¾

5.75 to —

New Chops 14/20 oz.

— to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	per picul
169.00 to —	
Window Glass	per box.
5.50 to —	
Kerosene Oil.....	per 10-gal. case
2.15 to —	

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 26th July.—A dull and comparatively inactive week has again to be recorded, with but few changes of importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very quiet, and close with sellers at the reduced rate of 395 per cent. premium. The London rate is unaltered at £62. Bank of China ordinary shares have been sold at 15s., and more could probably be placed. Nationals are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold and are obtainable at \$340. China Traders are on offer at \$60. Cantons can be obtained at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have declined to \$345, at which a small business has been done. China Fires have been done at \$84.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands at \$35½ and \$35½, and close with buyers at the higher rate. Indo-Chinas have been bought at \$138½ and \$139, and close strong at the latter quotation. China-Manilas old and new are now quoted on the same basis at \$62 with probable buyers. On the new shares the final call has been paid, and the shares rank for dividend on the full face value as from the beginning of the year, the same as for the old issue. Douglasses have been sold and are obtainable at \$55. Star Ferries have been booked at \$24 and \$9 for the old and new shares respectively, and more shares are wanted. Shell Transports are wanted at £2. 12s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been sold at \$142 and \$140, and the market closes quiet at the latter quotation. Luzons are on offer at \$36.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold and are wanted at \$5½. Raubs are quiet at \$12½ with sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled erratic, and sales at various rates down to \$300 are reported. The market closes steady to firm, with a few shares obtainable perhaps at quotation. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are unchanged and without business. New Amoy Docks are wanted at \$24.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$196, \$197, and \$197½ for cash and the settlement, and there are now a few buyers at \$198. For August settlement sales are reported at \$198½ and \$199. Kowloon Lands are on offer at \$30. West Points can be obtained at \$52. Hongkong Hotels have sold at \$130, and more shares are to be had. Oriente Hotels have declined to \$65 sellers. Humphreys Estates have been done at \$13½, \$13½, and \$13, closing weak at the latter rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong Cottons continue in request at \$10½. The Shanghai stocks have declined all round, and are on offer at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments are on offer at \$55. Green Island Cements have been sold at rates rising to \$21, at which the market is steady. Watsons are to be had at \$16. Electrics are wanted at \$12 and \$6 for the old and new shares respectively. Hongkong Ropes have sellers at \$175. Ices are wanted at \$185. Tramways are in request at \$260. Dairy Farms have sold at \$7½ and more are wanted. Cambell Moores are enquired for at \$20. China Providents have sold at \$9½. Watkins have been booked and are wanted at \$10½. Tobacco Trusts have declined to \$55, at which shares may be obtained.

MEMOS.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders on the 6th August. Tebrau Planting Co., Ltd., ordinary general meeting of shareholders on the 30th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders on the 19th August. Transfer books closed from the 5th to 19th proximo, inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{395, p. ct. prm. = \$618½, sellers L'don, £62.
China & Japan, ordy.	24	215, sales
Do. deferred	21	25. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$25, buyers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	21	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$15	\$38, sellers.
China Light & Power } Co., Ld.	\$20	\$20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9½, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$140.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$500	\$1,500, sellers
Philippine Tobacco } Invest. Co., Ld. }	\$50	\$55, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 45, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 15, sellers
Hongkong	\$100	\$10½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$21.
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	210	\$130, buyers
Hongkong Electric }	\$10	\$12, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$6, buyers
Hk. Steam Water }	\$5	\$260, buyers
boat Co., Ld.		\$8, sales
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$130, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$18½, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$102½, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$175, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$300, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$84, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$345, sales
North China	225	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$120.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$198, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$13, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$36, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ld.	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jelebu	\$5	\$4½, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ld....	25c.	5 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A....	\$5	\$1, sellers
Do. B....	\$44	\$1, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$5½, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1½.
Raubs	18	\$12½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$24, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$65.
Robinson Piano Co., Ld.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62, sales
China Mutual Pref.	\$40	\$12.
China Ordinary	210	\$12.
Do.	25	\$7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$55, sellers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$3½, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$189, buyers
Shell Transport and } Trading Co.	21	22. 12s. 6d. buys.
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$2½, buyers \$9, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co....	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$11.
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Universal Trading } Co., Ld.	\$5	\$19½, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ld.	\$10	\$10½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$16, sales & sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 17th July (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). **BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Local transactions took place at 400 per cent. prem. cash and at 407.50 per cent. for 10th September. National

Banks are wanted. **INSURANCE.**—Marine.—Yangtzes sold at \$120; North Chinas are offering; other stocks are unchanged. **Fire.**—No business reported. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-China S. N. Co.—The local market has been quiet; a cash sale is reported at Tls. 110 and shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$154 and 153 for August delivery, 153 for 10th September, 155.50 for October and 156 for 10th November. Market closes with enquiry for cash shares. Shell Transport and Trading Co., Ld. Shares are offering. China Mutual S. N. Co. ordinary 25 paid up shares were placed at 25. 10s. 0d. (ex new bonus issue). China Merchants S. N. Co. shares sold at Tls. 155, 160, 162.50 and 160, and are wanted. **SUGARS.**—Peraks changed hands at Tls. 77.50 cash and are offering. **MINING.**—Raubs changed hands at \$12.50 and 12.25 and are offering. Kaiping Mine market has been active during the week. Sales were made at Tls. 310 to 330 for cash—later sales took place at Tls. 300 and 290, but closing business is reported at 310 to 315. Settlements were made for 31st inst. at Tls. 325, 327.50 and 330, for August at 340, 335 and 300, for October at 325, 335, 350 and 340, and for December at 350, at which rate there are further shares offering. **DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ld. Rates have been steady at Tls. 280 to 285 for cash, though a forced sale only realised Tls. 250. Settlements have been made for 31st inst. at Tls. 275, 280 to 250, 200 and 205, for August 282.50 and 285, for September 275 and October 275. Shares are offering. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. Shares are offering. It is notified that this Company is now registered under Limited Liability. **LANDS.**—Shanghais are wanted. Weihaiweis were placed at Tls. 20. **INDUSTRIAL.**—Gas Co., Ld. A dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year to 30th June has been declared payable on 25th instant. Shares are wanted. In Cotton Mills, Ewos, Internationals and Soy Chees are offering. Yah Loongs were placed at Tls. 25, 27.50, 15, 20 and 15, and are offering. Flour Mill and Moutrie & Co. shares are offering. Cigarette Co.'s shares were placed at Tls. 55 for cash and December and are wanted. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ld. Buyers are offering Tls. 175 (ex div. of Tls. 5 paid 12th instant). Shanghai and Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.'s Ld. A general meeting or shareholders is called for 30th July, 1901, to consider the statement of the Liquidators of the old Companies and transact merely formal business. Shares were placed and are wanted at Tls. 120 and are offering at higher rates. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Shanghai Waterworks Co. An interim dividend of 15s. per share (Ex. 2s. 7.5d.) for the half-year to 30th June has been declared payable on 25th inst. Shares are wanted. Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 45. Langkat Tobacco market has been steady with cash sales at Tls. 365 to 367.50. Settlements were made for December at Tls. 400 and 390. Hall and Holtz shares were placed at \$34 and 33.50. Watson & Co., shares are wanted. Central Store shares have been in strong demand and sold at intermediate rates from \$15 to 27.50; market closing with buyers at \$25. Mercury shares were placed at Tls. 52.50. Tsingtau Hotel Co. shares changed hands at \$105 and are offering. Astor House Hotel Co.'s shares sold at \$300, 310, 275, 285 and 275, closing with buyers at 275. A meeting of shareholders is called for 18th instant. **DEBENTURES.**—Shanghai Club 6 per cent. Loan has all been floated at par; a public sale is reported at Tls. 101.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 27th July.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credita, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.43
Credita, 4 months' sight	2.46½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.97
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credita, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½

ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	145½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	74
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	5½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	3 c.p.m.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	½ c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	116½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2½ c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	59½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.25
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per taol	53.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	26½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON. —Peleus (str.), Bengal (str.)	
Malacca (str.), Deucalion (str.), Stentor (str.)	
FOR LIVERPOOL. —Patroclus (str.)	
FOR MARSEILLES. —Annam (str.), Malacca (str.)	
FOR BREMEN. —Stuttgart (str.), Acilia (str.)	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG. —Acilia (str.), Alexandria (str.), Sibiria (str.), Andalusia (str.)	
FOR TRIESTE. —Melpomene (str.)	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C. —Glenogle (str.), Yangtsse (str.)	
FOR VANCOUVER. —Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.)	
FOR SAN FRANCISCO. —Hongkong Maru (str.), China (str.)	
FOR NEW YORK. —Hudson (str.), Arara (str.), L. Schepp, I. F. Chapman, Manuel Llaguno	
FOR PORTLAND (Or.). —Knight Companion (str.)	
FOR SAN DIEGO. —Strathgyle (str.)	
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA. —Chelydra (str.)	

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

July—	
20, Glamorganshire, British str., from Manila.	
20, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.	
20, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F. cisco.	
20, Shantung, German str., from Swatow.	
20, Uganda, British trapt., from Taku.	
21, Sumatra, British transport, from Taku.	
21, Haiching, British trapt., from Weihaiwei.	
21, Esang, British str., from Tongku.	
21, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.	
21, Taishan, British str., from Bangkok.	
21, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.	
21, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.	
21, Taiseng, British str., from Canton.	
21, Feiching, British str., from Hoihow.	
21, Wursburg, German str., from Yokohama.	
21, F. Ferdinand, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
21, Elsa, German str., from Canton.	
22, Kansu, British str., from Amoy.	
22, Konig Albert, German str., from Bremen.	
22, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	
22, Alexandria, German str., from Hamburg.	
22, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.	
22, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.	
22, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
22, Deuterus, German str., from Manila.	
22, Maidsuru Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.	
22, Melpomene, Austrian str., from Trieste.	
22, Tsinan, British str., from Moji.	
22, Machew, German str., from Swatow.	
23, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.	
23, Alcious, British str., from Foochow.	
23, Fushun, British str., from Canton.	
23, Choyang, British str., from Canton.	
23, Charterhouse, British str., from Straits.	
23, Hinang, British str., from Samarang.	
23, Glenogle, British str., from Moji.	
23, Chingtu, British trapt., from Madras.	
23, Tosa Maru, Jap. str., from Shimonoseki.	
23, Daybreak, Amr. str., from Shanghai.	
23, A. Imiral Charner, French cr., from Boca Tigres.	
23, Anna, Austrian str., from Swatow.	
24, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.	
24, Isla, British cruiser, from Kobe.	
24, Canning, British trapt., from Calcutta.	
24, Maria, Austrian str., from Moji.	

24, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.
 24, Pakshan, British str., from Saigon.
 24, Toonan, American str., from Haiphong.
 24, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 24, P. C. C. Kiao, German str., from Bangkok.
 25, Tacoma, American str., from Tacoma.
 25, Shanghai, British str., from Yokohama.
 25, Bayern, German str., from Shanghai.
 25, Australian, British str., from Kobe.
 25, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
 25, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 25, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 25, Sten or, British str., from Liverpool.
 25, Etitá Nossack, German str., from Canton.
 25, Daphne, German str., from Swatow.
 25, Progress, German str., from Touron.
 25, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 25, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Susquehanna, Amr. ship, from Manila.
 26, Glengyle, British trspt., from Taku.
 26, Nevada, British trspt., from Taku.
 26, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 26, Tailée, German str., from Saigon.
 26, Shirley, British str., from Cardiff.
 26, Esang, British str., from Canton.
 26, Kwangse, British str., from Java.
 26, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 26, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
 26, Trym, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 27, Clam, British str., from Balik Papan.
 27, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 27, Daybreak, American str., from Canton.
 27, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 27, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 28, Itola, British transport, from Calcutta.
 28, Annam, French str., from Shanghai.
 28, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Knight Companion, British str., from Portland, Oregon.
 28, Ness, British str., from Moji.
 23, Tsuruhiko Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.

July— DEPARTURES.

20, Sunda, British str., for Europe.
 20, Carthage, British hospital ship, for Taku.
 20, Waterwitch, H.M. surv.-ship, for Borneo.
 20, Banca, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Lombard, British str., for Rangoon.
 20, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 20, C. H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 20, Aristeia, Austrian str., for Moji.
 20, Taishun, American str., for Shanghai.
 20, Sithonia, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 20, Independent, German str., for Canton.
 20, Chinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Conch, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Simongan, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 21, Uganda, British transport, for Calcutta.
 22, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 22, Sumatra, British trspt., for Calcutta.
 22, Haiching, British trspt., for Calcutta.
 22, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Vipere, French gunboat, for Canton.
 22, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 23, Konig Albert, German str., for Shanghai.
 23, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
 23, Iltis, German gunboat, for Canton.
 23, Elsa, German str., for Hongay.
 23, Saint Irene, British str., for Rangoon.
 23, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 24, F. Ferdinand, Austrian str., for Moji.
 24, Melpomene, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 24, Guthrie, British str., for Moji.
 24, Wurzburg, German str., for Hamburg.
 24, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 24, Daybreak, American str., for Canton.
 24, Alcious, British str., for London.
 24, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Kansu, British str., for Java.
 24, Kashing, British str., for Iloilo.
 24, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Feiching, British str., for Haiphong.
 24, Perla, British str., for Manila.
 24, Malsura Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 24, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
 25, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 25, Alexandria, German str., for Yokohama.
 24, Kutsang, British str., for Samarang.
 25, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 25, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 25, Tainan, British str., for Sydney.
 26, Glamorganshire, British str., for Moji.
 26, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 26, Arratoon Apoor, British str., for Calcutta.

28, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 26, Stentor, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 26, Phra Nang, German str., for Bangkok.
 26, Independent, German str., for Chefoo.
 26, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 26, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Sydney.
 26, Canning, British trspt., for Shanghai.
 26, Chingtu, British trspt., for Taku.
 27, Glengyle, British trspt., for Calcutta.
 27, Nevada, British transport, for Calcutta.
 27, Australian, British str., for Sydney.
 27, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 27, Denteros, German str., for Saigon.
 27, Anna, Austrian str., for Kobe.
 27, Esang, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.
 27, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 28, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
 28, Shantung, German str., for Swatow.
 28, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 28, Shirley, British str., for Moji.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Daijin Maru*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. C. Bell.
 Per *Sunda*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. H. Henningson, Mr. and Mrs. T. Mitchell, Messrs. T. E. Griffith, L. B. Standley, T. W. Mitchell, C. Ditrich, J. Grant Mackenzie, and J. Gow; for Singapore, Mrs. Prynn; for London, Messrs. J. A. Hawes, J. A. Murray; from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr. G. A. Diss; for Colombo, Miss Burdett Leach; for London, Mr. F. W. Farr.
 Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith and child, Mr. and Mrs. Halsey, Messrs. A. Sayson, Bowill, Paya, B. Garcia, L. Menaschi, M. Luchon, Dr. Bogg, U.S.N., Mr. J. W. O'Brien, and Mrs. A. Bauscom.
 Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Mr. E. Grainger.
 Per *Uganda*, from Taku, Capt. P. H. Cunningham and P. K. Chitale, Serpts. Terry and McHale.
 Per *Hongkong Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. D. F. Anglin, Messrs. F. L. Benton and F. O. Branch, Mrs. W. D. Clark, Messrs. J. Lewis Crew, A. Crowley, A. J. Gies, Rev. E. J. Hardy, Mr. N. Holstein, Lieut. C. D. Hutchins, Mrs. A. B. Jeffers, Mrs. Wm. Jeffers, Mrs. S. A. Mitchell, Mrs. L. C. Cartwright, Miss Alice Roberts, Miss Una Roberts, Mr. A. S. Mon, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Spear, Jr., Mrs. H. Stone, and Mrs. C. W. Thomson and child.
 Per *E. F. Ferdinand*, from Trieste, Messrs. de Kowarsky, Jager, Bunmer, Holweit, and Siehenschein.
 Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mr. Scheslinger, Mrs. McEvoy and Miss Gretchen.
 Per *Konig Albert*, from Bremen, &c., Mrs. Anna Lorenzon, Messrs. Carl Cuntz, Ernest Clark, Herm. Weideli, Hugo Klöckner, and T. Weller.
 Per *Tainan*, from Moji, Mr. Geo. Grimbale, Master E. Grimbale, and Mr. Crouch.
 Per *Yawata Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Messrs. Lawrence, N. Jundzuka, G. Hida, T. Asano, and Caundoodin, Lieuts. T. C. Burke and R. G. Baker; for Manila, Messrs. Seaman, Anderson, P. O. Rothrock, G. Atsumi, and Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers and three children, Mrs. Tamar, Mrs. Cochon, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Arthur, Mrs. Heigman, Miss Thompson, Miss M. Thompson, Mrs. Slavers, and Mrs. Dabe and two children; for Townsville, Mr. S. Saito; for Brisbane, Mr. C. E. Blait, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Gaunt; for Sydney, Messrs. S. Boyce, T. A. Hyland, and Blaki, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ray and two children; Mr. and Mrs. Michi, Mr. and Mrs. T. Archerson, Misses Anbuson and Bracker; for Melbourne, Mr. C. Asano.
 Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Yokohama, &c., Mrs. Haas and five children, Messrs. A. B. Morris, Bagnall, P. Cooper and Kelly Ranburn.
 Per *Bayern*, from Shanghai, Messrs. von Saldern, von Sallwurf, Roella, Fiedler, Becke, Laffort, von Mennig, von Vidtman, von Nazmer, von Blumenstein.
 Per *Australian*, from Kobe, Mrs. Knowles, Mrs. Osborne, Dr. and Mrs. Roads, Miss Brunet, Miss Kroll, and Mr. Mahler.
 Per *Woosung*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Bryce.
 Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Mrs. W. Davis and child and Mr. P. H. Barlow.

Per *Tai Lee*, from Saigon, Mr. Gordon.
 Per *Nevada*, from Taku, Mrs. J. Brandreth.
 Per *Susquehanna*, from Manila, Mr. G. D. Winston.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. E. F. Gibson.
 Per *Glengyle*, from Taku, &c., Capt. Nicholls, Hudson, Kendall, Tighe, Murray, and Walters, Major Giles, Lieut. Ducat, Fordham, Mo-Queen, Grey, Simson, I.M.S., and Stokes.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Messrs. R. P. Ramsay, R.N. and M. Wilde; from London, Messrs. E. Cockayne, D. Davis, P. Thomas, and Miss Newton.
 Per *Kasuga Maru*, for Japan, Mr. B. Hoaner, Miss J. M. C. Millar, Mr. Crawdace, Miss F. E. Millar, Mrs. and Miss Crawdace, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Edgell, Lady H. d'Anjou, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Crawford, Mr. H. Himmelhoch, Mrs. Jessen, Mr. and Mrs. F. Grey, Miss Jessen, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and child, Capt. D. S. Shank, Major and Mrs. H. S. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Skeffington, Messrs. K. Matsuda, M. Tagawa, M. Morita, T. Yohikawa, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ruister and daughter, Mr. G. W. Gale, Lieut. C. S. Owen, Capt. H. M. Richards, Mr. Jas. Clarkson, Mrs. F. Mameya and child, Messrs. S. Matsuda, M. Lewis Shade, and I. Nakazawa.
 Per *Yuensang*, for Manila, Messrs. W. M. Lavensaler and Paul Floer, Lieut. Wells, U.S.N. and Spear, U.S.N., Mr. M. M. de la Huguera, Mrs. Stickney, Messrs. James Younger, C. Burt, C. Dietrich, A. J. Finlay, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Messrs. A. Cameron and J. B. Martin, and Mrs. Miller and child.
 Per *Sunda*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. G. A. Diss and H. J. Hemmy; for Bombay, Mr. F. Vicojoe; for Port Said, Messrs. Robt. Frick and Paul Nobholz; for Marseilles, Revs. S. Paya and B. G. Paredes; for London, Capt. and Mrs. Carlyle and child, Mr. Walter Paul, Serpt. and Mrs. Burke and four daughters, Staff-Serpt. Bond, A.O.C., and Mr. James Henderson; from Shanghai, for London, Messrs. J. A. Hawes and J. A. Murray; from Yokohama, for Colombo, Miss Burdett Leach; for London, Messrs. M. Cavanagh, H. Russell, W. Fara, C. W. Breckett, and D. H. Gwymer.
 Per *Konig Albert*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. J. Silbermann, R. de Calo, O. Kunst, K. Kanvog, and F. Long, Mrs. and Miss Siebs, Mrs. Lyne, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Klinck, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schönmann, Misses Schönmann, Heidelberg and Cartwright, Dra. M. Huber and A. Okamatsu; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Brewitt and child; for Kobe, Mrs. Hamilton, Rev. W. J. Southam, Miss Lucy Agnes Eyre, and Mr. S. Valje; for Yokohama, Messrs. A. H. Hollingworth, H. Lorely, Eduard Siebs, C. Xavier, Mrs. F. Donenberg, Mrs. Browning, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Summers.
 Per *Gaelic*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Harvey Lovely, Mrs. Oshiwa, Messrs. H. S. Godfrey, O. S. Rothschild, Yomamoto, and Aamiki; for Kobe, Mrs. Geo. Eckley and Major Mathison; for Yokohama, Mrs. H. Humphreys, Master E. C. Humphreys, Messrs. C. P. Bragg and A. W. Bain; for Honolulu, Mr. T. F. Dredge; for San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Holsey, Mrs. Mary Ross, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Pittig, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Galbraith and infant, Messrs. M. Lukban, A. Taison, D. Craig, and Chas. Schlesinger; for New York, Mr. J. H. Denison; for London, Lieut. N. M. Geoghegan and H. M. Beasley, R.A., and Capt. M. B. Roberts, R.A.
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 Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Mrs. W. O. Clark and Mrs. D. F. Anglin.
 Per *Bayern*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. S. G. Hobson and L. Menaschi and Miss O. Logan; for Colombo, Mr. A. Crowley; for Genoa, Dr. O. Fraake and Mr. Paderin; for London, Messrs. H. Kirkhope, W. Hunter, and J. McIver.

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